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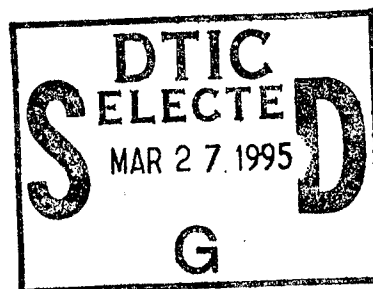
TWO-DIMENSIONAL SIGNAL PROCESSING FOR REGIONAL SEISMIC EVENT IDENTIFICATION

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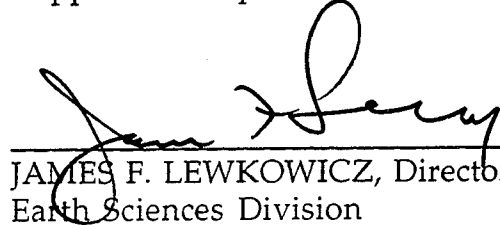
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1. Introduction

The objective of this research effort is to develop and test a methodology for regional seismic event identification which utilizes 2-dimensional signal processing and treats the seismogram as an *image*. The methodology seeks to exploit the information content of an entire regional seismogram, and is particularly appropriate for small events, multiple events, and events with blocked, attenuated, or missing phases.

The motivation for this research comes from our observation that the spectral features which distinguish quarry explosions from naturally occurring earthquakes can be seen throughout the entire seismogram. These features, which include the spectral complexity and spectral energy distribution (*P vs. S*), are readily apparent in the time-frequency (TF) representation of the seismogram¹. The TF distribution is particularly helpful in the analysis of events which have highly attenuated, blocked, or missing phases.

A number of investigators have pointed out the utility of the TF distribution for seismic analysis (Smith, 1989; Hedlin *et al.*, 1989). However, TF plots have not been widely used or accepted in the seismic community. There are a number of reasons for this situation: the difficulty of manipulating and operating on 2-D images *vs.* 1-D time series or spectra; the lack of quantifiable measures of the features seen on TF plots; the lack of simple relations between TF images and the physics of the source and propagation effects; and the lack of a simple image discriminator which would allow automated processing of TF images.

During the course of our research on the application of artificial neural networks (ANN's) to seismic event identification, we have employed TF plots for

¹ The time-frequency distribution goes by many names. Examples include *spectrogram* and *sonogram*. We prefer the general term *time-frequency distribution*, because it includes many different types of distributions, such as Wigner-Ville, and special window functions such as the cone kernel. A spectrogram or sonogram implies a specific type of distribution.

the purposes of data review and phase timing. This use has led us to be able to perform simple visual classification of TF images which closely match the classification capability of our 1-D ANN-based processor. However, the TF image appears to excel in situations of low SNR, mixed events, or events with highly attenuated phases. Preliminary research has shown that we can exploit the information content of a TF distribution by first transforming the TF image into the wavenumber domain via a 2-D FFT, and then use a combination of image processing and simple backpropagation ANN's to extract a number of features which completely describe the spatio-temporal nature of the source. These features can then be input to any number of classifiers to perform the final event identification.

This report documents our study to test the utility of these concepts for regional seismic event identification. The study focuses on events from the NORESS, Vogtland, and Lubin ground truth databases used in our previous studies of regional discrimination (Pulli and Dysart, 1993).

2. Signal Processing and Parameter Extraction

2.1 Step 1: Time-Frequency Transformation

Step 1 of our analysis involves the transformation of the original time series data (single station or array) into the time-frequency (TF) domain. There are numerous schemes for implementing the TF transformation (Cohen, 1989), the simplest of which is to slide a tapered window down the time series and compute successive FFT's. The result can be displayed in a number of ways, but we prefer a 2-dimensional color-coded representation for simplicity. *Figure 1* shows the TF images of two demonstration events recorded at the NORESS array. The event at the top is a quarry blast at the Titania Mine, southwest of NORESS. Note the spectral banding seen throughout the TF image. The event at the bottom is a nearby earthquake. No spectral banding is present in its TF image. The TF image of the earthquake is dominated by energy around the Lg wave.

2.2 Step 2: Image Equalization

Image equalization refers to the process by which the images are enhanced, corrected, or detrended to bring out specific features of the image. An analogy in 1-dimensional seismic signal processing would be the correction of seismic spectra for f^2 spectral decay or attenuation. Three different image equalization schemes were applied to the TF distributions.

Equalization 1 treats the TF image as a sequence of power time-series (essentially narrow bandpass filtered seismograms, one frequency at a time) and applies noise-spectral equalization to the rows (time series) of the image. This equalization emphasizes the relative energy in each frequency bin as a function of time, and tends to enhance the Pn/Lg spectral ratio information in the whole

seismogram. It also enhances the spectral banding seen in the ripple-fired quarry blasts (Smith, 1989; Hedlin *et al.*, 1989).

Equalization 2 treats the TF image as a sequence of power spectra and applies noise-spectral equalization to the columns (spectra) of the image to obtain deviations from the trend of the power spectra. This equalization emphasizes the spectral banding seen in the ripple-fired quarry blasts and de-emphasizes the Pn/Lg spectral ratio information.

Equalization 3 is similar to equalization 1 in that it operates on the rows (time-series) of the TF distribution, but in this case it determines deviations in the trends of the time series. This effectively removes the seismic phase amplitude ratio information and the frequency banding, leaving whatever is left to dominate. Hence, this equalization is a residual estimate of the TF image.

2.3 Step 3: Wavenumber Transformation

In Step 3, the TF image is transformed into the wavenumber domain using a 2-D FFT. The wavenumber representation of the demonstration events is shown in *Figure 2*. A variety of options exist at this stage, including the use of alternative 2-D images such as cepstra vs. time, Lg/Pn spectral ratios vs. time, binary images, and higher dimensional images.

2.4 Step 4: Image Model and Image Parameters

A key element of our methodology is the use of a parametric model to characterize the power spectrum of an arbitrary image. The model we have used is a stochastic surface model originally developed by Goff and Jordan (1989) to characterize bathymetric surfaces. The power spectral form of the model is given by

$$P(k) = \frac{4\pi v H^2}{\sqrt{|Q|}} [u^2(k) + 1]^{-(v+1)} \quad (1)$$

where H is the RMS height (energy), k is the wavenumber, Q is a matrix given by

$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} k_s^2 \sin^2(\theta) + k_n^2 \cos^2(\theta) & (k_n^2 - k_s^2) \sin^2(\theta) \cos^2(\theta) \\ (k_s^2 - k_n^2) \sin^2(\theta) \cos^2(\theta) & k_n^2 \sin^2(\theta) + k_s^2 \cos^2(\theta) \end{bmatrix} \quad (2)$$

and θ is the azimuth. The exponential term v is related to a constant asymptotic slope (B) of the power spectrum, or fractal dimension (D), each of which implies a surface whose amplitudes scale predictably with wavenumber. B and D are related to v by

$$B = -2(v+1) \quad (3)$$

$$D = 3 - v$$

These parameters quantify features such as lineations, spatial orientation, characteristic lengths, and roughness.

In summary, the model of the wavenumber image is characterized by 5 features:

- H: the RMS height, or energy of the wavenumber spectrum
- θ : the azimuth of symmetry
- k_s : the characteristic wavenumber parallel to the axis of symmetry
- k_n : the characteristic wavenumber normal to the axis of symmetry
- B: the asymptotic slope

In addition to these 5 model parameters, we extracted an additional 19 image parameters using techniques from image processing (such as the Karhunen-Loeve transform). This transform determines the covariance structure and higher-order moments of the image by assuming that the image represents a pseudo-probability density function. The covariance of the zero-mean image is

$$COV[P(kx, ky)] = \begin{Bmatrix} S_{11} & S_{12} \\ S_{21} & S_{22} \end{Bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

where

$$S_{11} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(kx_i - \bar{k}x)^2}{n-1} \sum_{j=1}^n P(kx, ky) \quad (5)$$

$$S_{22} = \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{(ky_j - \bar{k}y)^2}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n P(kx, ky)$$

$$S_{12} = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{(kx_i - \bar{k}x)(ky_j - \bar{k}y)}{n-1} P(kx, ky)$$

The eigenvalue problem is solved by the singular value decomposition (SVD) of the covariance matrix

$$SVD(COV) = U \begin{Bmatrix} e_1^2 & 0 \\ 0 & e_2^2 \end{Bmatrix} V^T \quad (6)$$

Although not required in the 2X2 case, the SVD method is included by our analysis to allow parameter extraction from higher-dimensional images.

The parameters determined by this analysis, as well as their names as used in subsequent plots, are shown in the following table.

Table 1. List of parameters extracted from wavenumber images.

Parameter	Definition	Parameter Name on Plots
e11	1st Eigenvalue, i=1	emajor
e12	1st Eigenvalue, i=2	emajor-2
e13	1st Eigenvalue, i=3	emajor-3
e21	2nd Eigenvalue, i=1	eminor
e22	2nd Eigenvalue, i=2	eminor-2
e23	2nd Eigenvalue, i=3	eminor-3
kurt1	Image kurtosis, i=1	curt
kurt2	Image kurtosis, i=2	curt-2
kurt3	Image kurtosis, i=3	curt-3
e11/e21	Eigenvalue ratio, i=1	emajor/eminor
e12/e22	Eigenvalue ratio, i=2	emajor-2/eminor-2
e13/e23	Eigenvalue ratio, i=3	emajor-3/eminor-3
e11 × e21	Eigenvalue product, i=1	emajor x eminor
e12 × e22	Eigenvalue product, i=2	emajor-2 x eminor-2
e13 × e23	Eigenvalue product, i=3	emajor-3 x eminor-3
$\sqrt{e_{11}^2 + e_{21}^2}$	Eigenvalue norm, i=1	eigen_norm
$\sqrt{e_{12}^2 + e_{22}^2}$	Eigenvalue norm, i=1	eigen2_norm
$\sqrt{e_{13}^2 + e_{23}^2}$	Eigenvalue norm, i=1	eigen3_norm
e13/e22	Eigenvalue ratio, i=3, j=2	emajor-3/emajor-2
Kurt3 / Kurt2	Kurtosis ratio	curt-3/curt-2
k _s	Characteristic length	1/ws
k _n	Characteristic length	1/wn
H	RMS height	rms
B	Spectral slope	hexp

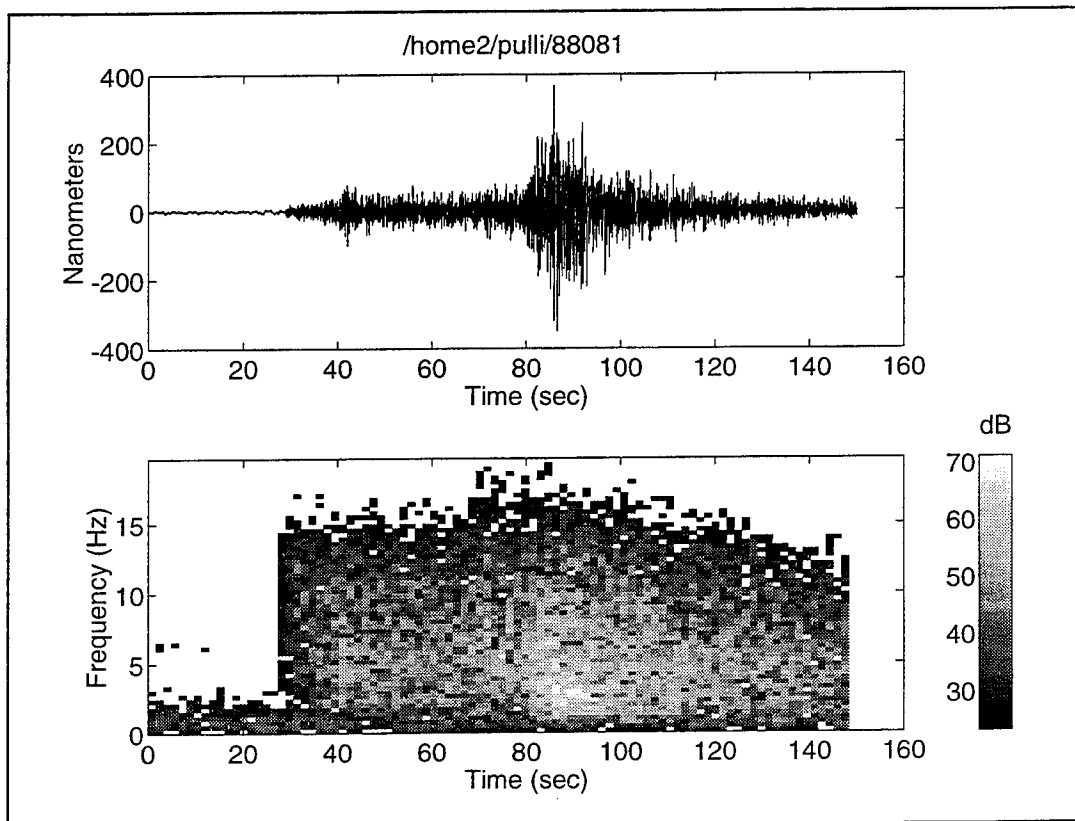
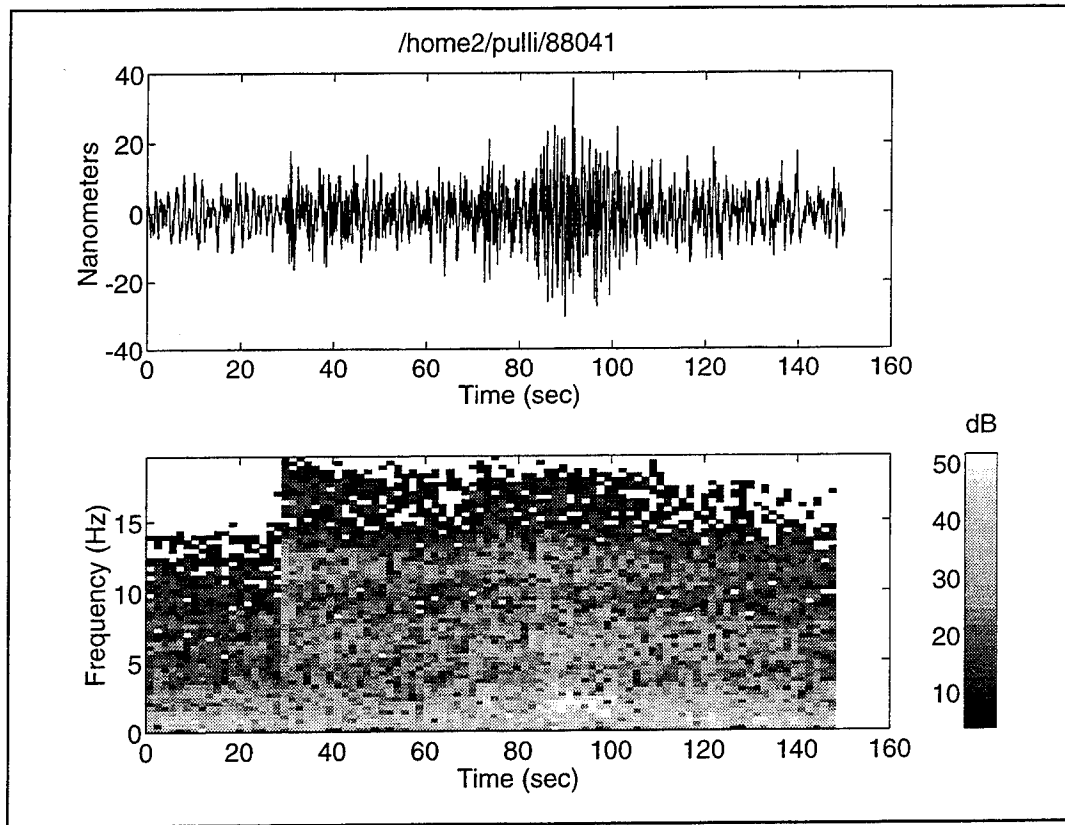


Figure 1. Time series and time-frequency distributions for Titania mine blast (top) and coastal Norway earthquake (bottom).

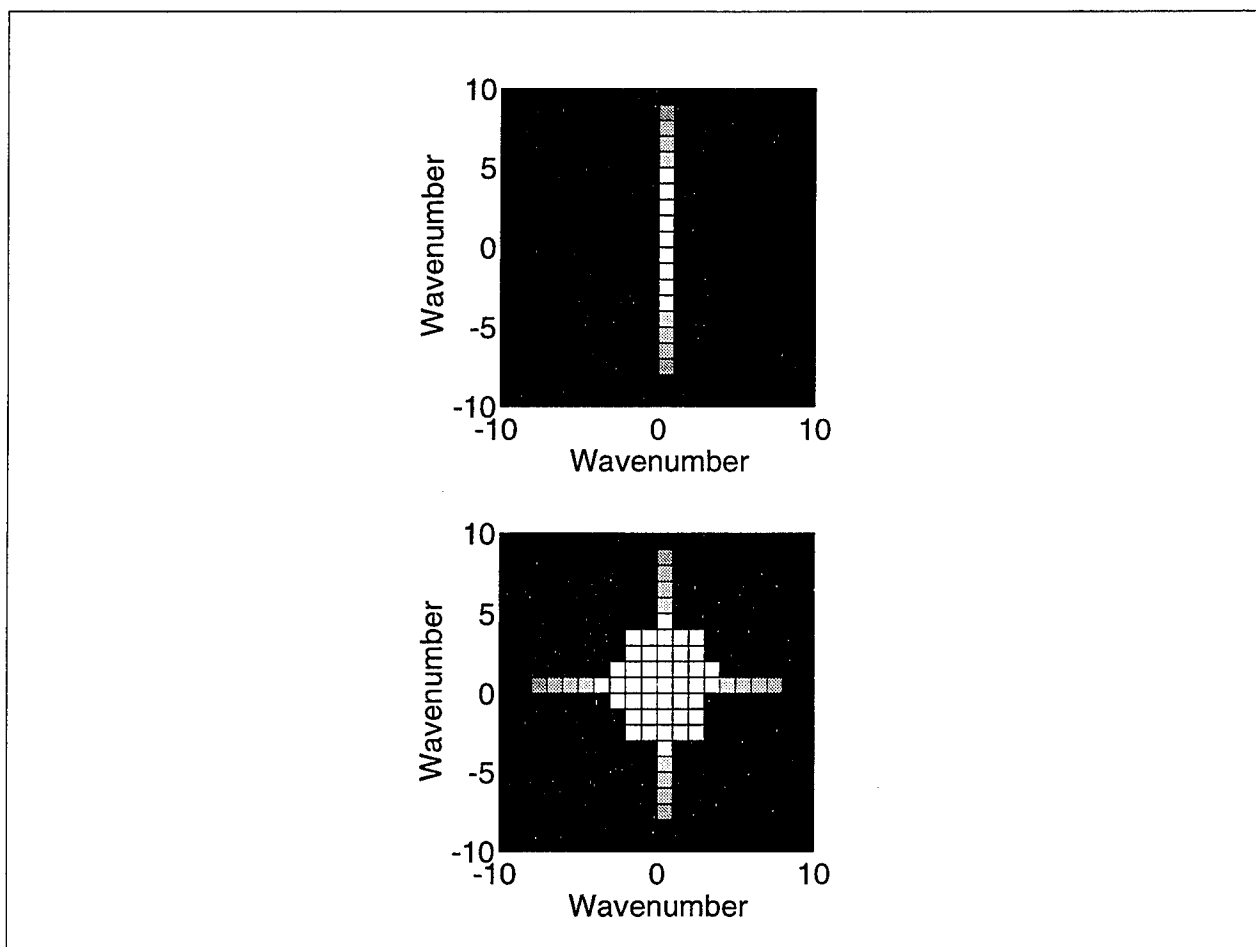


Figure 2. Wavenumber spectra of Titania mine blast (top) and coastal earthquake (bottom).

3. Results for NORESS, Vogtland, and Lubin

3.1 NORESS

The methodology just described was first applied to 83 events from our NORESS ground truth database described in previous documents (e.g. Pulli and Dysart, 1994). Of these 83 events, 35 were earthquakes and 48 were explosions. The 24 image parameters were extracted for all of the events using each of the three image equalization schemes. Values of these parameters are shown graphically in *Figures 3-8*.

It is clear from these plots that some of the image parameters are quite good at separating event types, such as curtosis for equalizations 1 and 2. However, many parameters provide little or no capability for separating event classes. An effective means of condensing and evaluating these parameters is the calculation of the Mahalanobis Distance, which is

$$D_p = \frac{(\mu_1 - \mu_2)^2}{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2} \quad (7)$$

Here, μ and σ are the means and variances respectively of the parameter values for each class of events (1 and 2). Parameters which provide good identification capability have large differences in mean values and small variances, and hence large D_p 's. The best parameters from equalization 1 are:

- 20: emenor 3
- 1: curtosis
- 10: emajor-2 / emenor-2
- 18: emenor

For equalization 2, the best parameters are:

- 2: curtosis 2
- 1: curtosis
- 4: curtosis-3 / curtosis-2
- 22: rms
- 19: emenor 2

For equalization 3, the best parameters are:

- 15: emajor-3 x emenor-3
- 19: emenor 2
- 4: curtosis-3 / curtosis-2
- 22: rms
- 2: curtosis-2

3.2 Vogtland

The Vogtland dataset (see Grant *et al.*, 1994; Pulli and Dysart, 1994) consists of 23 events, 9 earthquakes and 14 explosions. Parameter values for the three image equalization schemes are shown in *Figures 12-17*. Mahalanobis Distances are plotted in *Figures 18-20*. The best parameters from equalization 1 are:

- 18: emenor
- 20: emenor-3
- 1: curtosis

- 15: $\text{emajor}^{-3} \times \text{eminor}^{-3}$
- 4: $\text{curtosis}^{-3} / \text{curtosis}^{-2}$
- 22: rms

For equalization 2, the best parameters are:

- 18: eminor
- 1: curtosis
- 23: wn
- 24: ws
- 21: hexp

For equalization 3, the best parameters are:

- 9: emajor^2
- 5: eigen2_norm
- 13: $\text{emajor}^{-3} / \text{emajor}^{-2}$
- 11: $\text{emajor}^{-2} \times \text{eminor}^{-2}$

3.3 Lubin

The Lubin dataset consists of 30 "mining-induced earthquakes". Image parameters for the three equalizations are shown in *Figures 21-26*. Since there is only one source type in this dataset, Mahalahobis Distance calculations are not appropriate, but a comparison of the image parameters with those of the nearby Vogtland events is of interest. We will take the best parameters from equalization and note under which class the Lubin events fall.

The best parameters from equalization 1 are:

- 18: emenor - Lubin events fall primarily under explosion class
- 20: emenor-3 - Lubin events fall under both classes
- 1: curtosis - Lubin events fall under earthquake class
- 15: emajor-3 x emenor-3 - Lubin events fall primarily under explosion class
- 4: curtosis-3 / curtosis-2 - Lubin events fall primarily under explosion class
- 22: rms - Lubin events fall under earthquake class

For equalization 2, the best parameters are:

- 18: emenor - Lubin events fall primarily under explosion class
- 1: curtosis - Lubin events fall primarily under explosion class
- 23: wn - Lubin events fall primarily under explosion class
- 24: ws - Lubin events fall primarily under explosion class
- 21: hexp - Lubin events fall primarily under explosion class

For equalization 3, the best parameters are:

- 9: emajor 2 - Lubin events fall under both classes
- 5: eigen2_norm - Lubin events fall primarily under explosion class
- 13: emajor-3 / emajor-2 - Lubin events fall under both classes
- 11: emajor-2 x emenor-2 - Lubin events fall primarily under explosion class

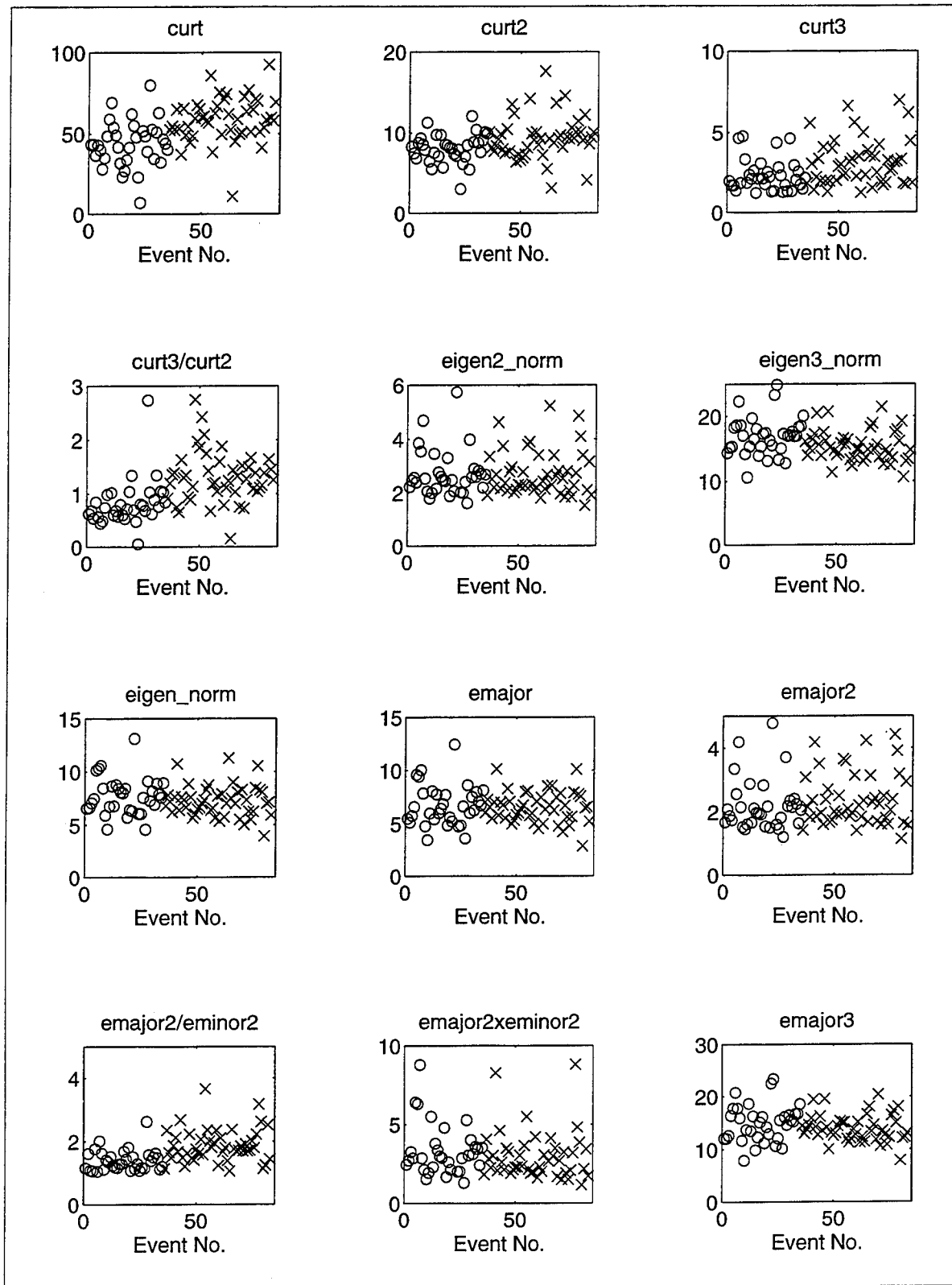


Figure 3. Values of image parameters 1-12 for the NORESS dataset, equalization number 1.

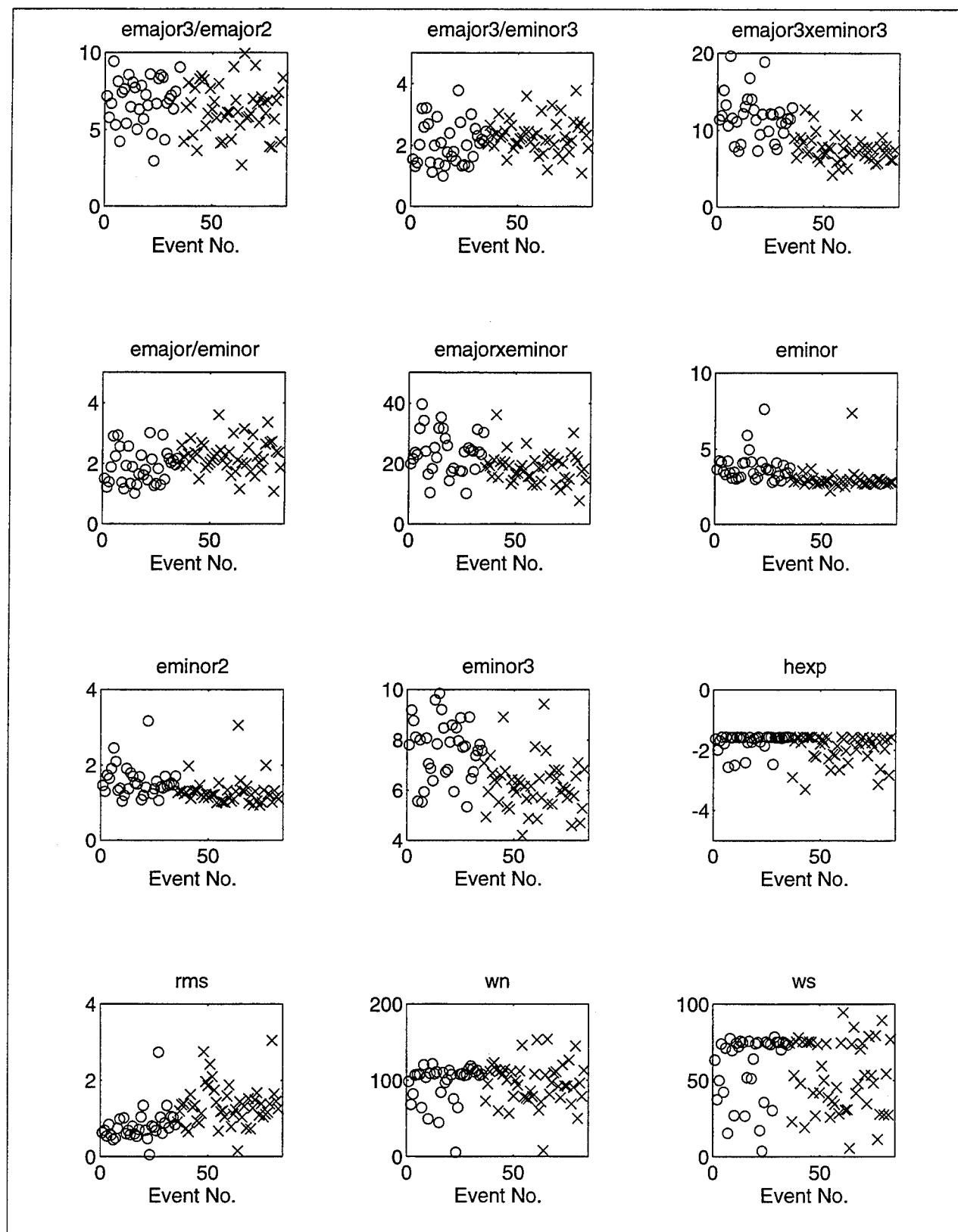


Figure 4. Values of image parameters 13-24 for the NORESS dataset, equalization number 1.

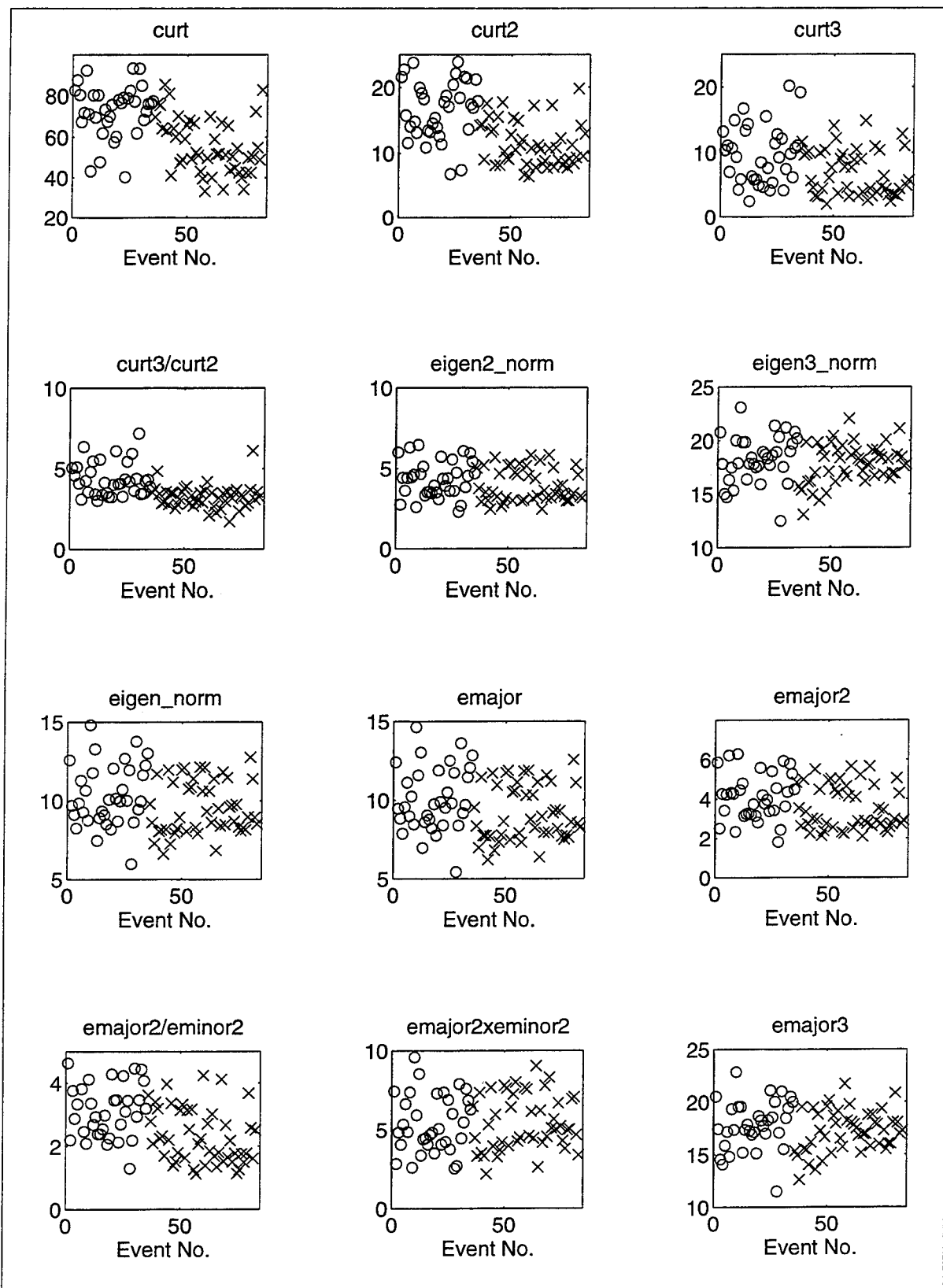


Figure 5. Values of image parameters 1-12 for the NORESS dataset, equalization number 2.

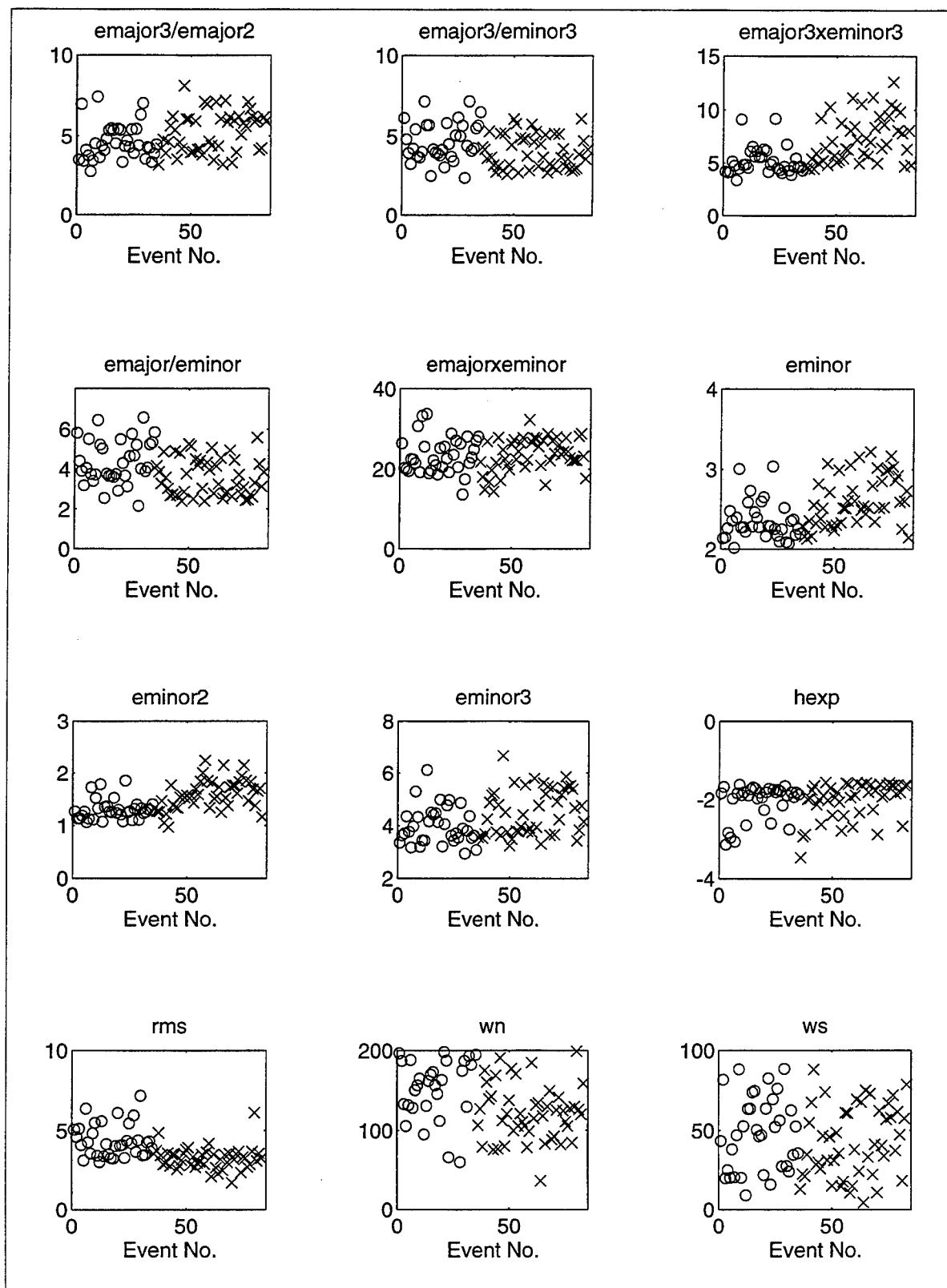


Figure 6. Values of image parameters 13-24 for the NORESS dataset, equalization number 2.

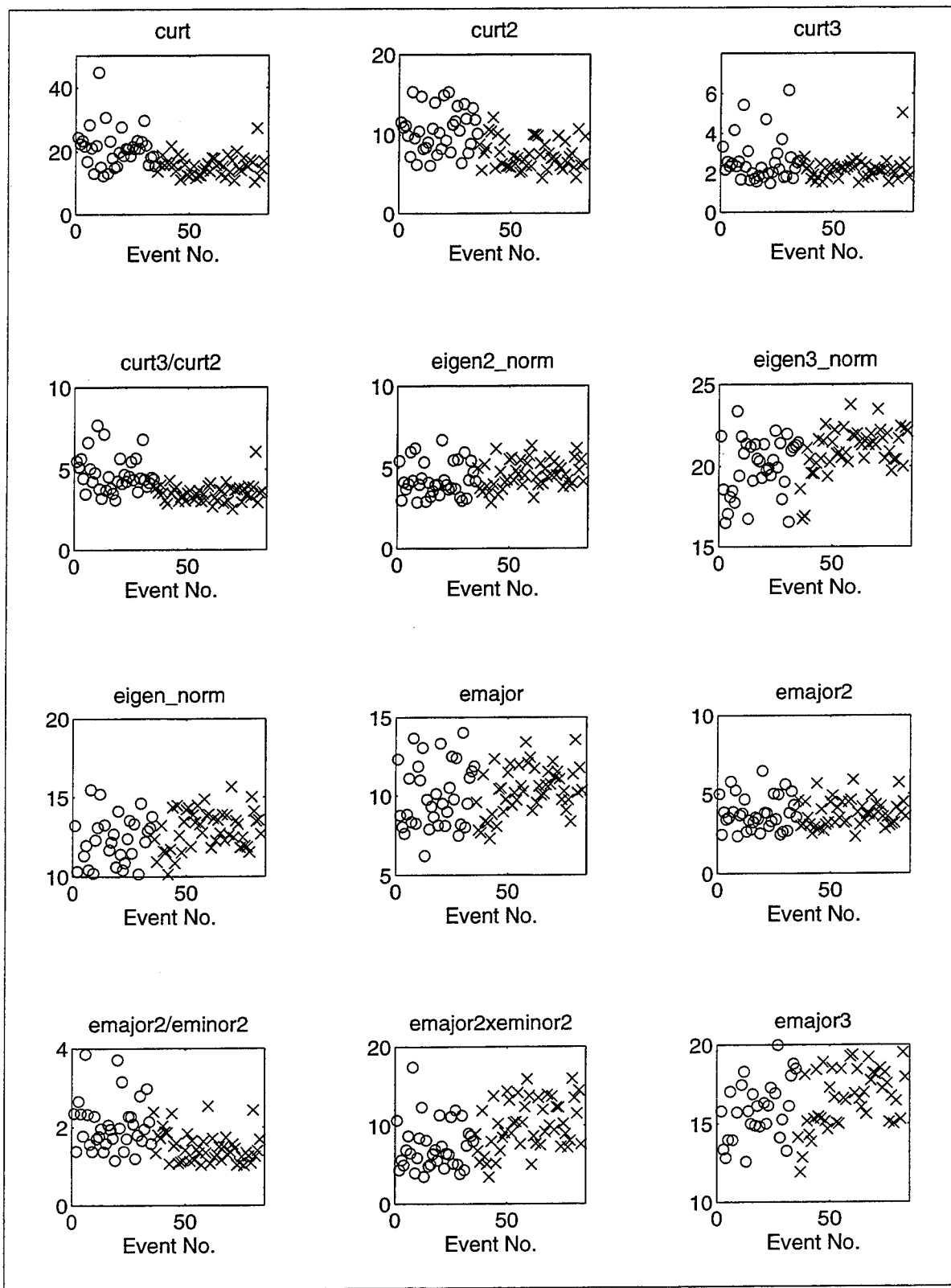


Figure 7. Values of image parameters 1-12 for the NORESS dataset, equalization number 3.

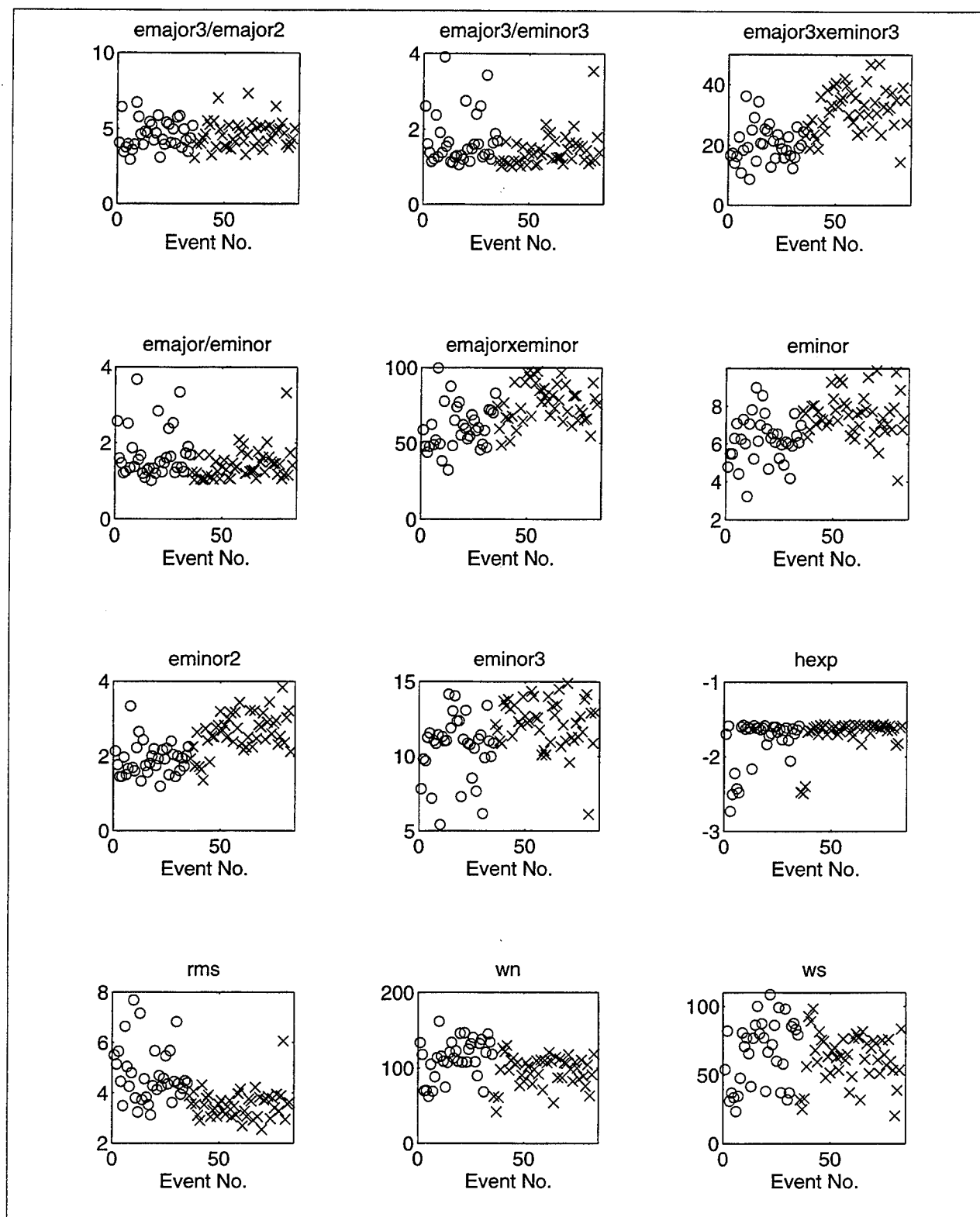


Figure 8. Values of image parameters 13-24 for the NORESS dataset, equalization number 3.

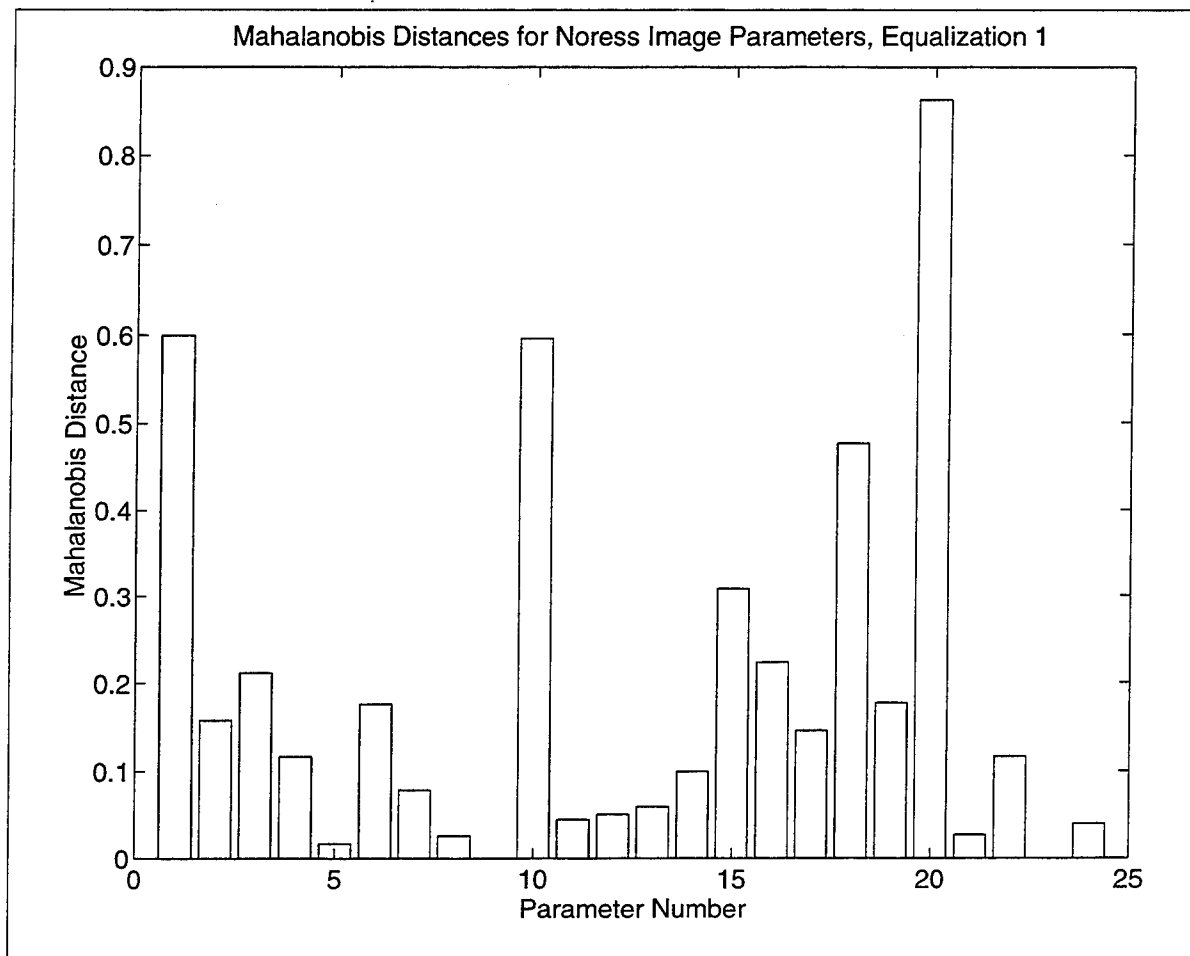


Figure 9. Mahalanobis distances for image parameters for NORESS database, equalization 1.

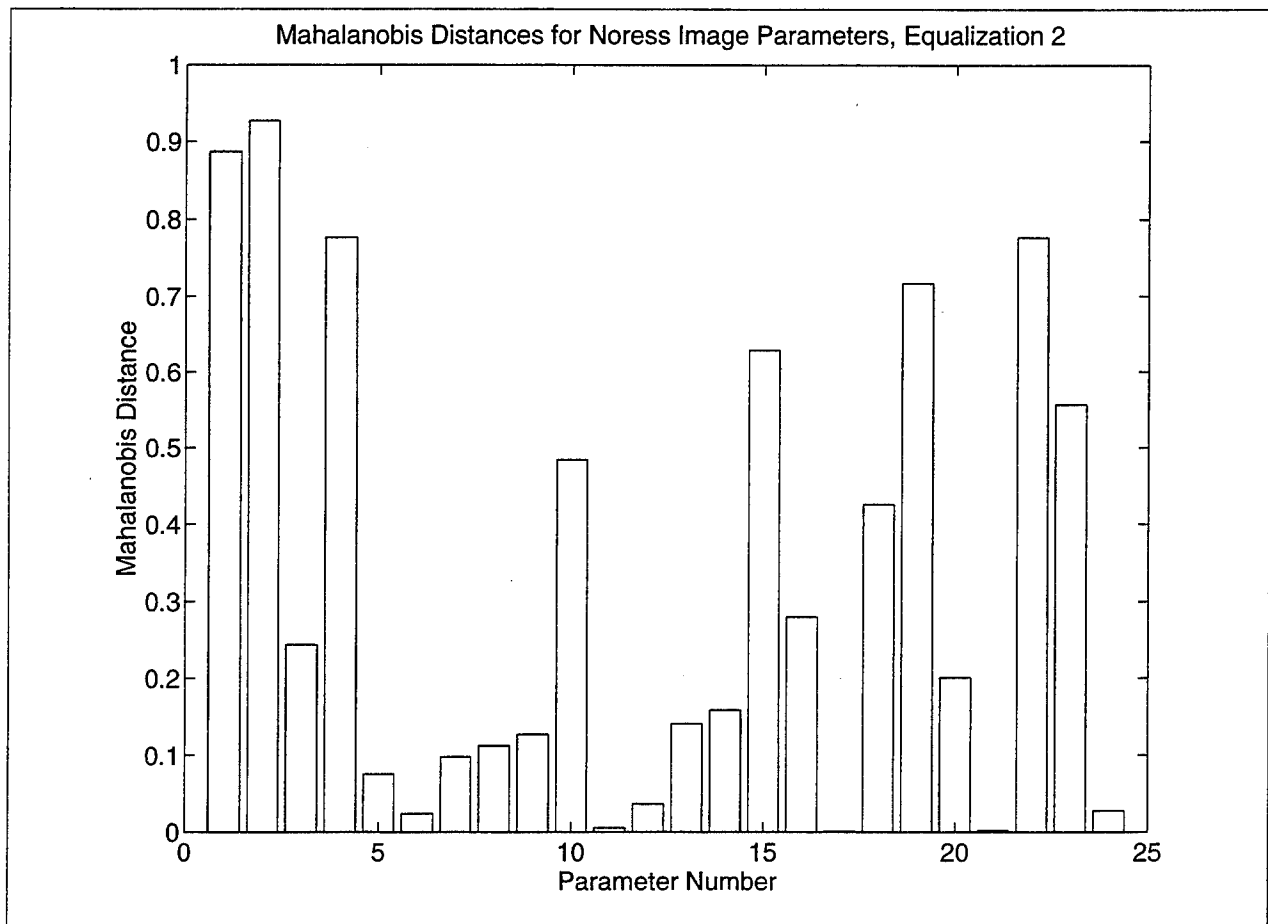


Figure 10. Mahalanobis distances for image parameters for NORESS database, equalization 2.

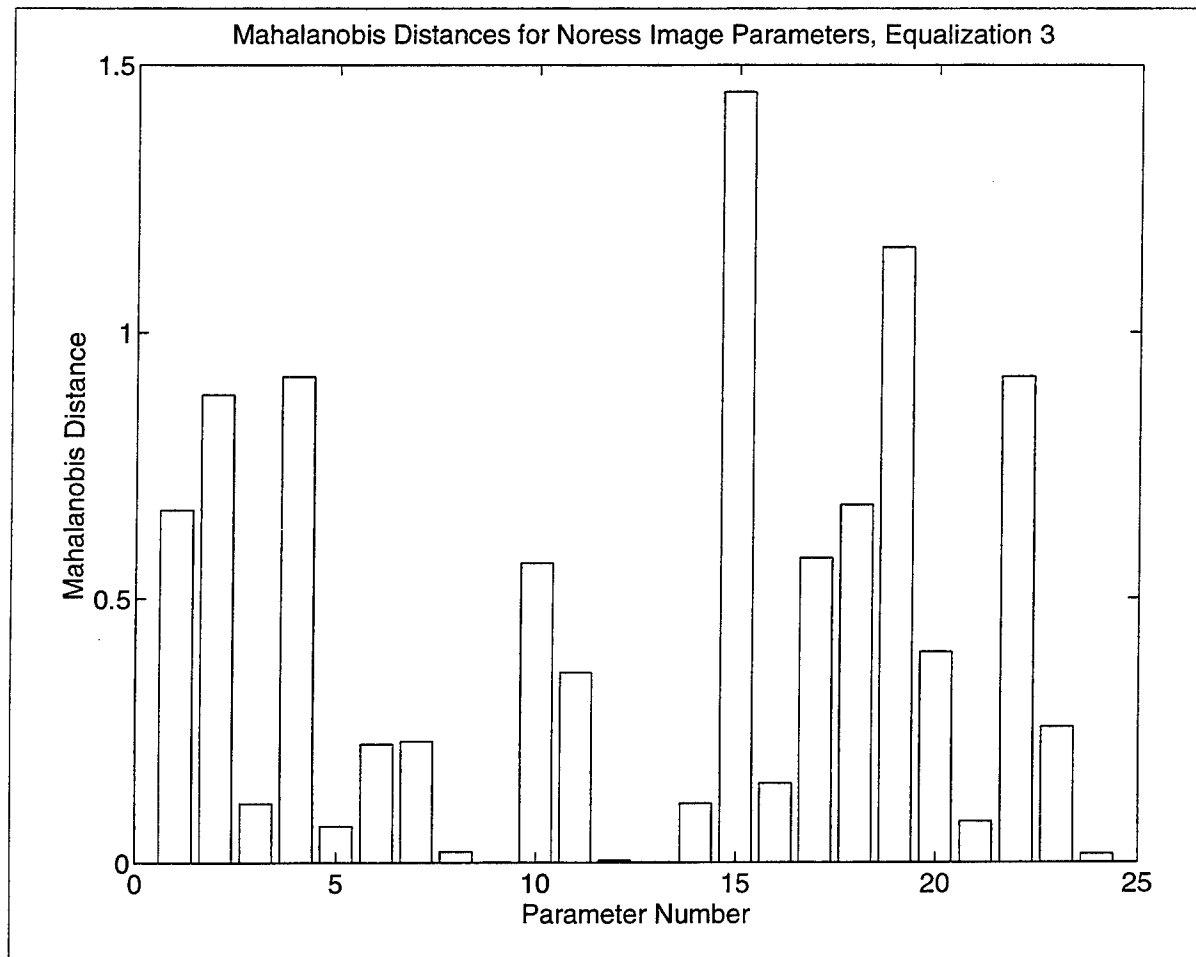


Figure 11. Mahalanobis distances for image parameters for NORESS database, equalization 3.

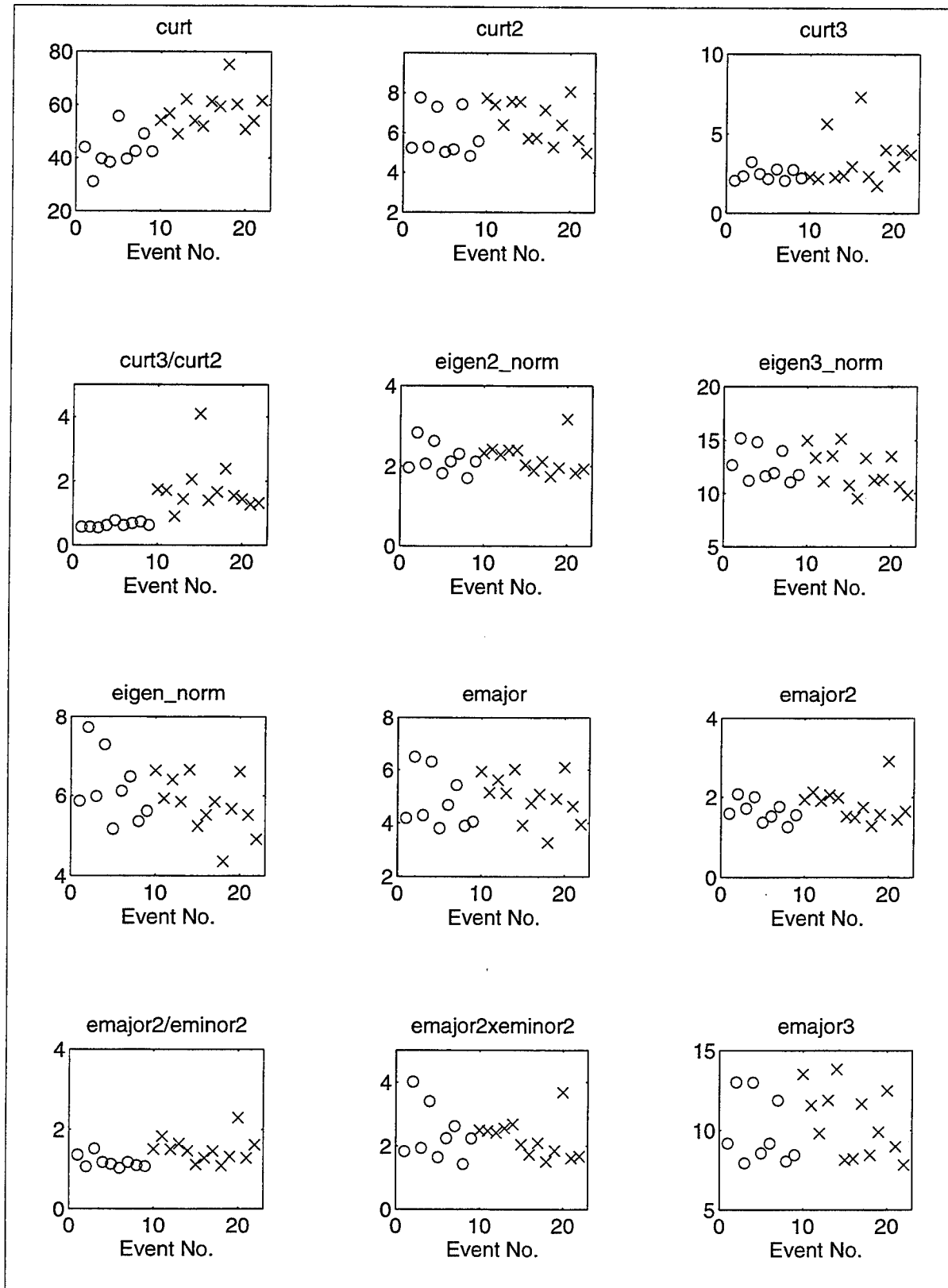


Figure 12. Values of image parameters 1-12 for the Vogtland dataset, equalization number 1.

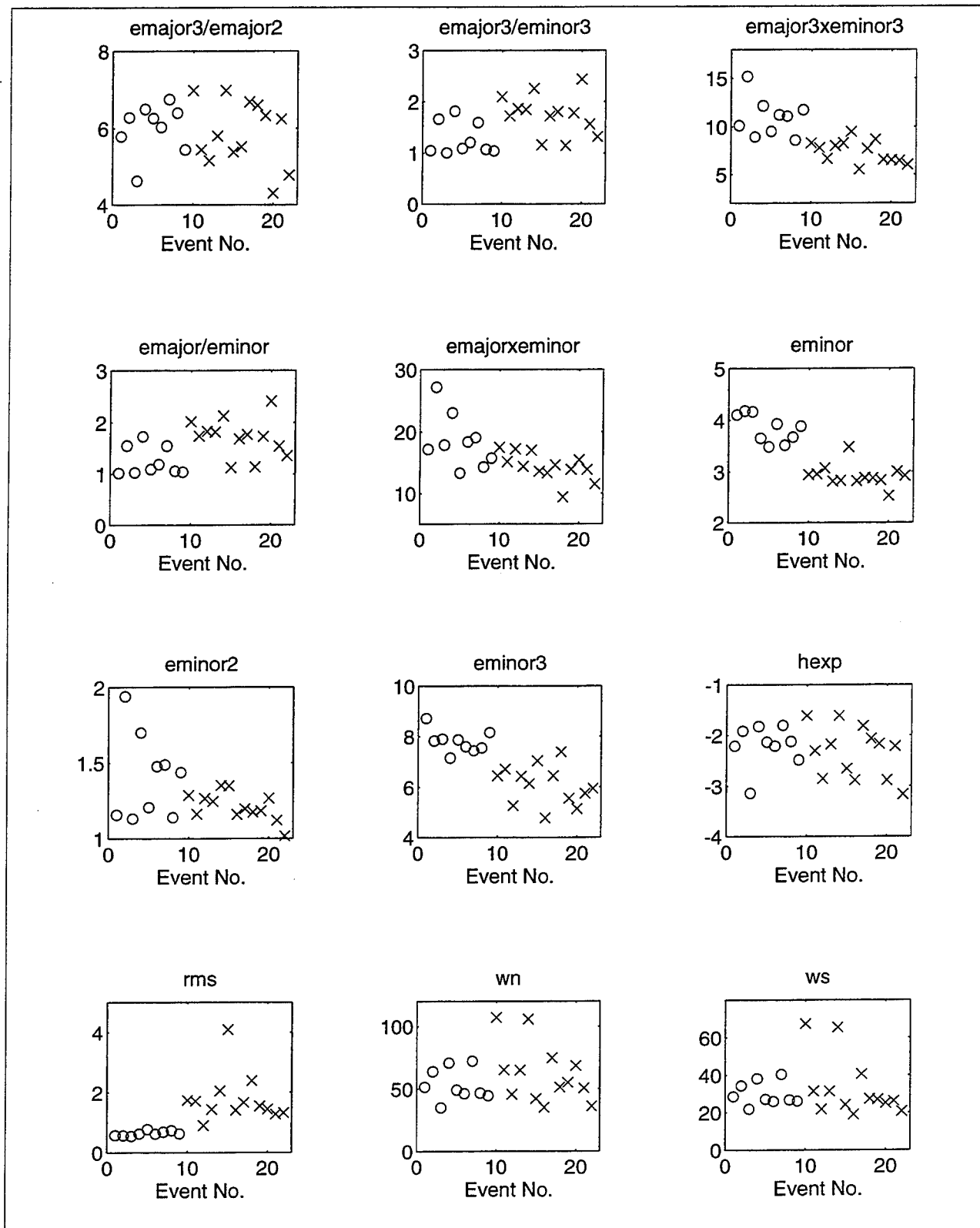


Figure 13. Values of image parameters 13-24 for the Vogtland dataset, equalization number 1.

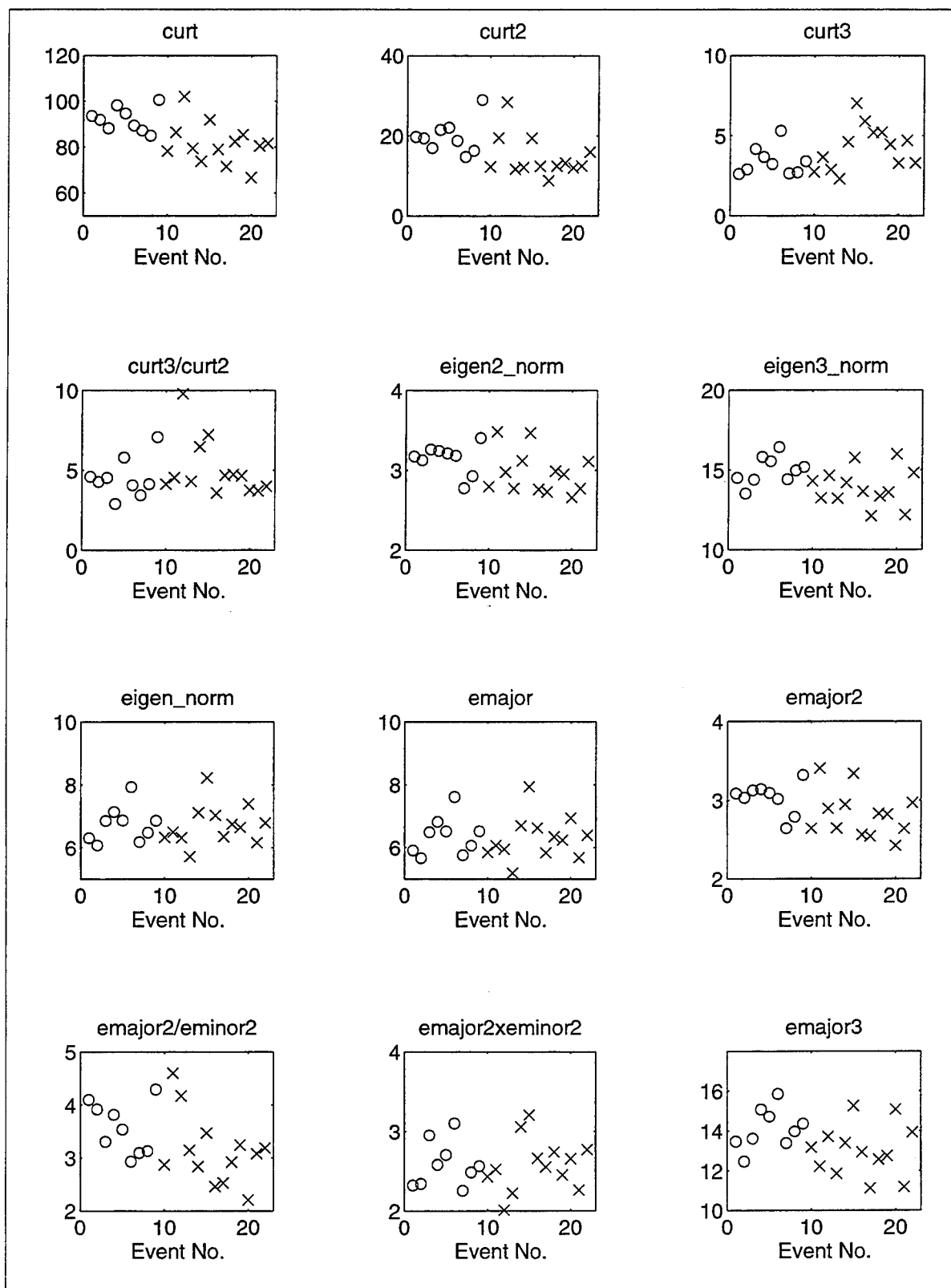


Figure 14. Values of image parameters 1-12 for the Vogtland dataset, equalization number 2.

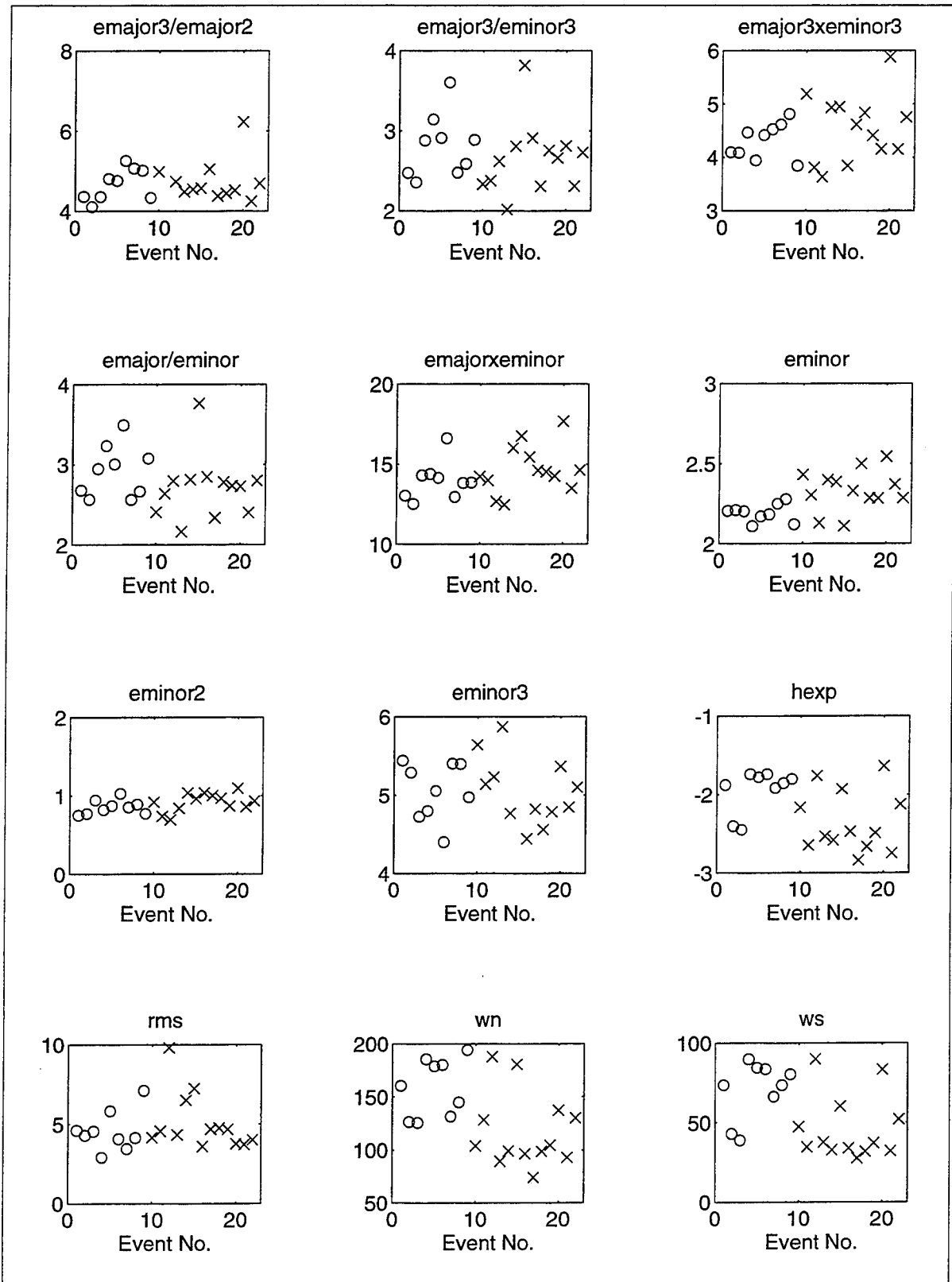


Figure 15. Values of image parameters 13-24 for the Vogtland dataset, equalization number 2.

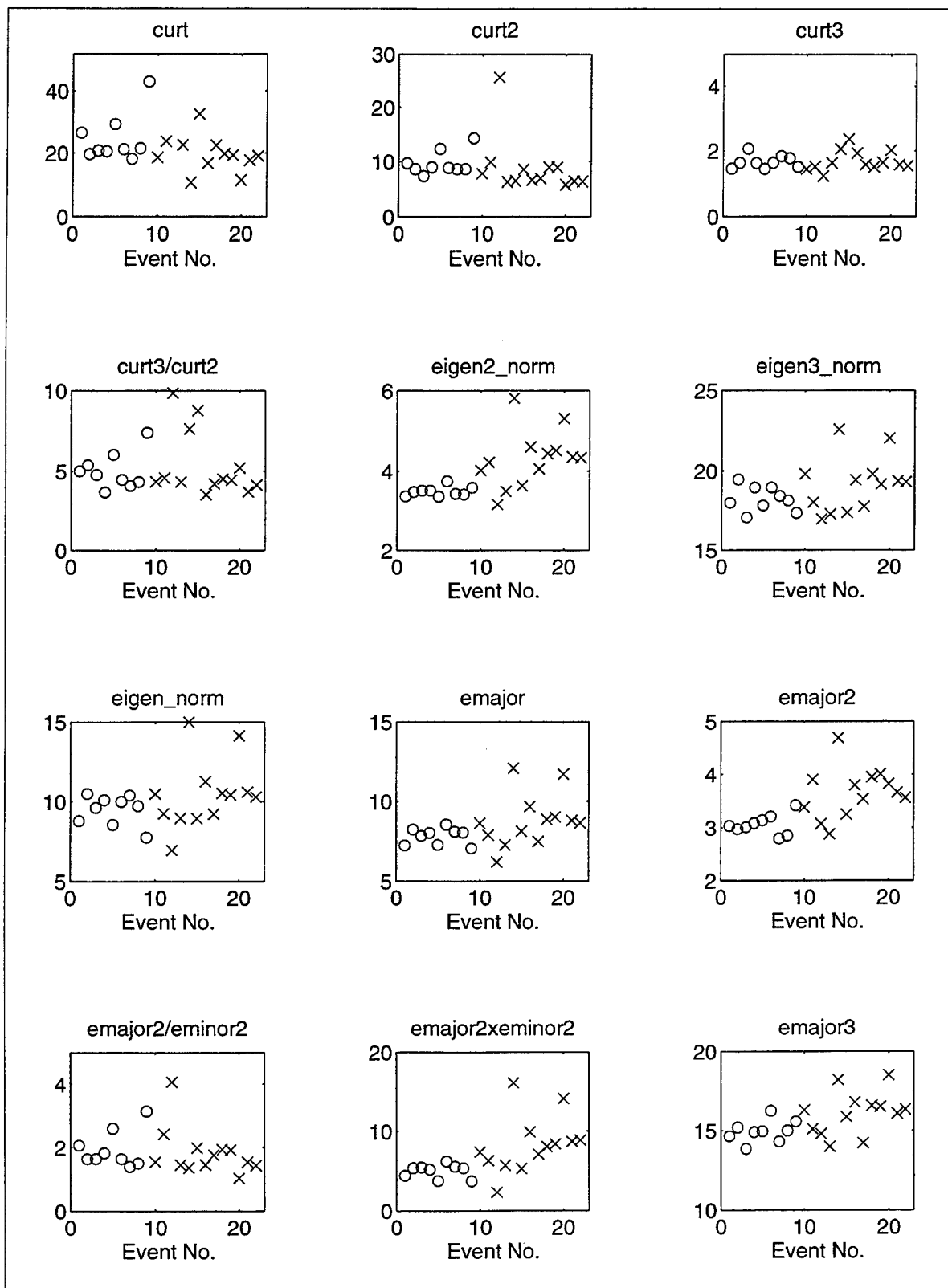


Figure 16. Values of image parameters 1-12 for the Vogtland dataset, equalization number 3.

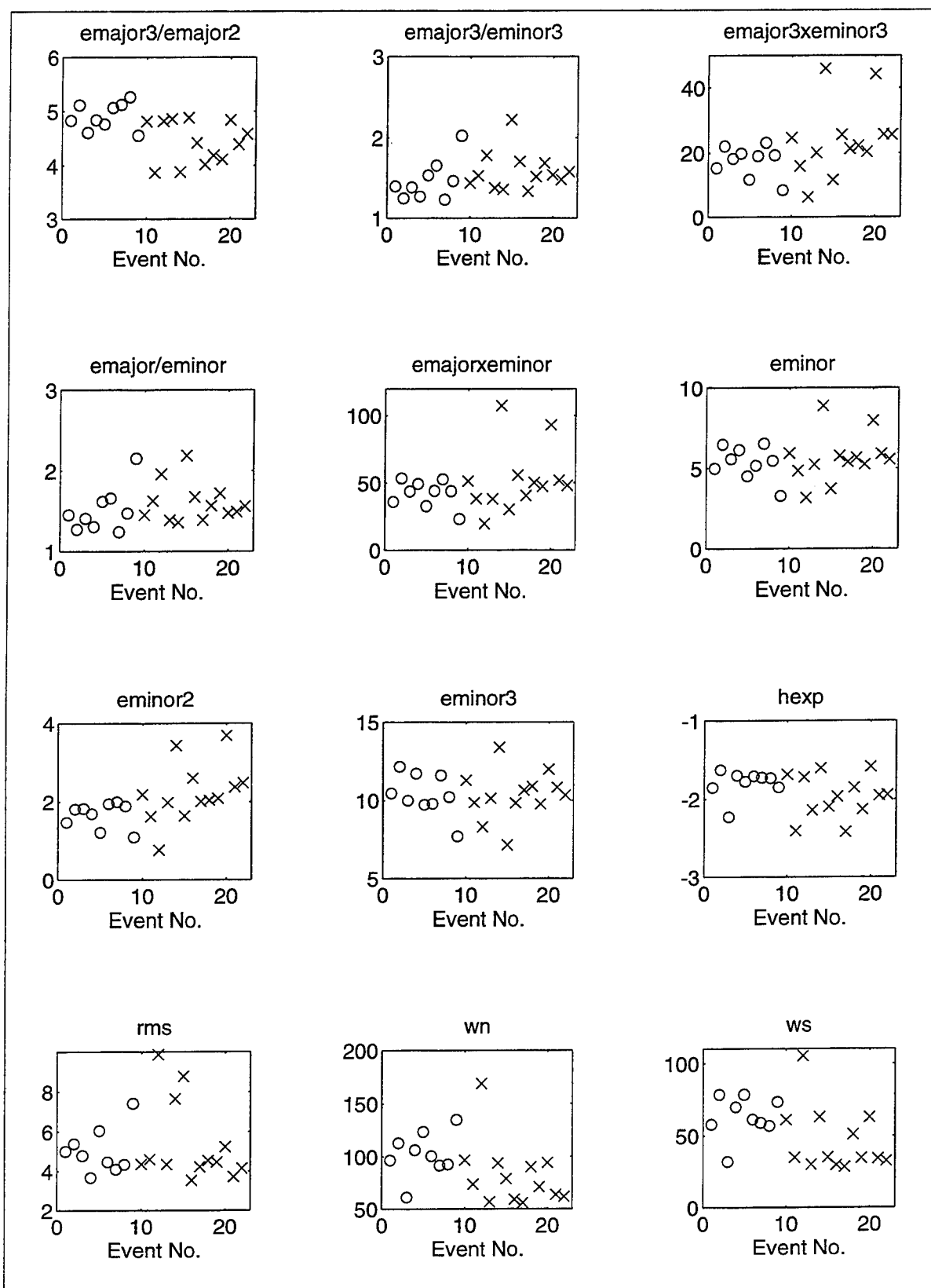


Figure 17. Values of image parameters 13-24 for the Vogtland dataset, equalization number 3.

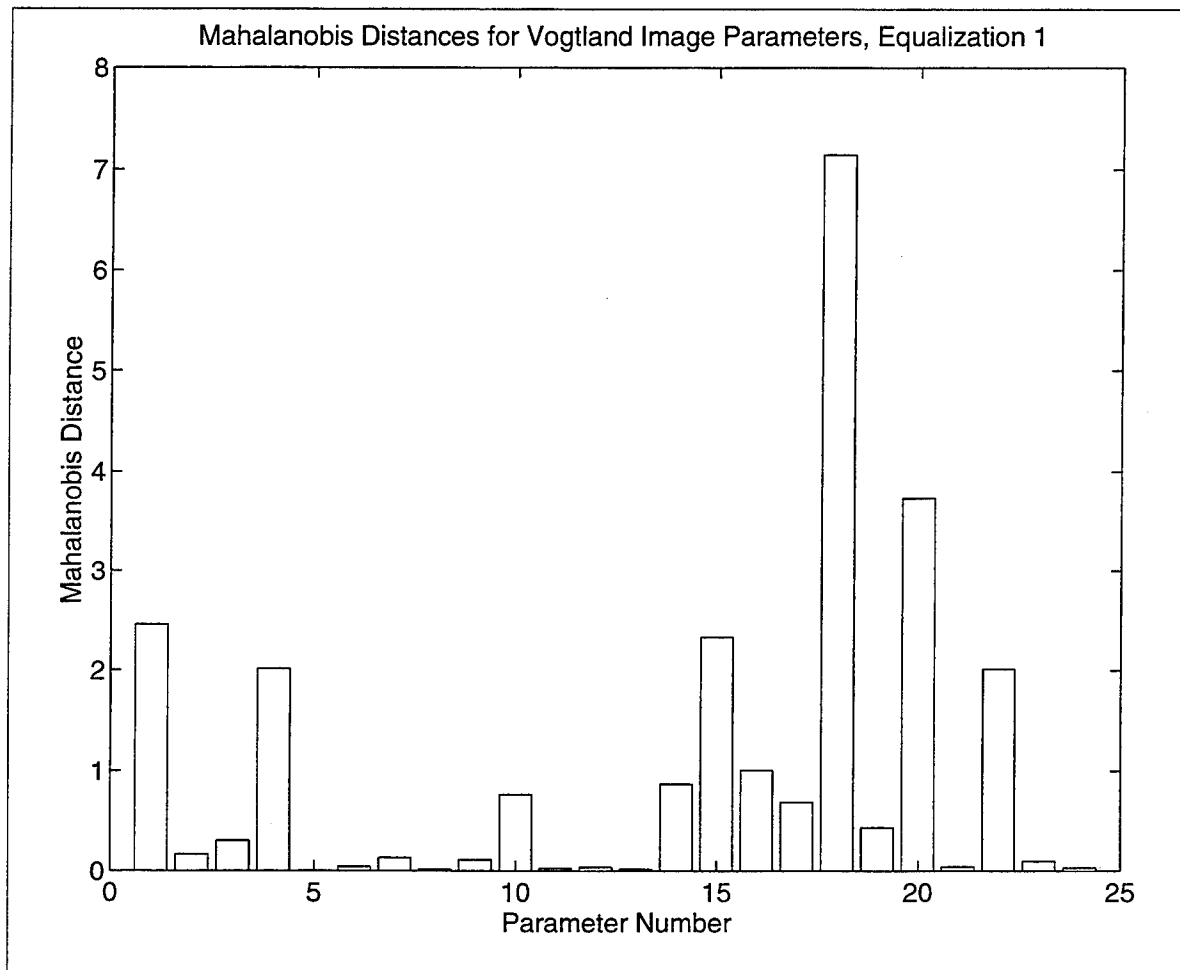


Figure 18. Mahalanobis distances for image parameters for Vogtland database, equalization 1.

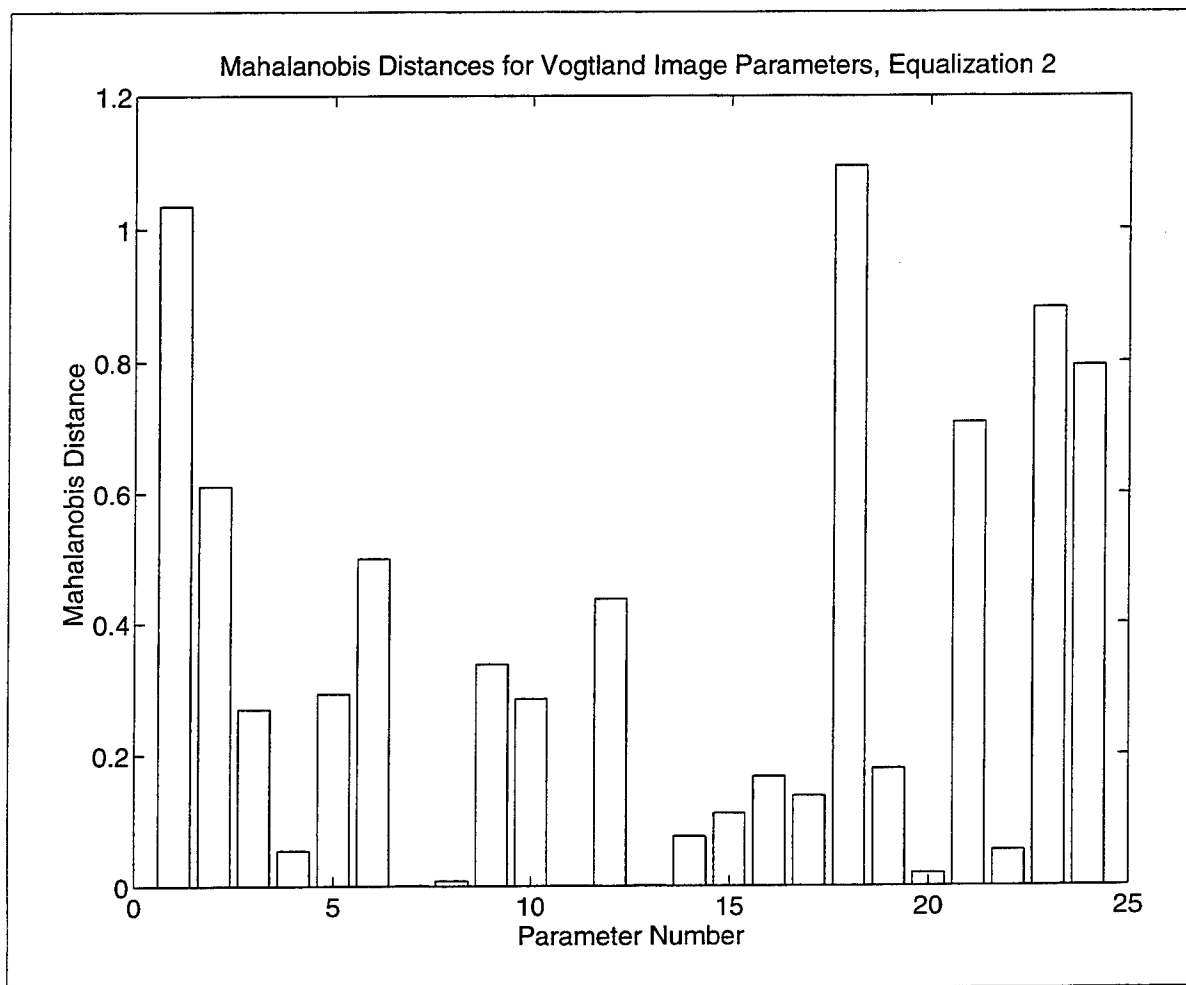


Figure 19. Mahalanobis distances for image parameters for Vogtland database, equalization 2.

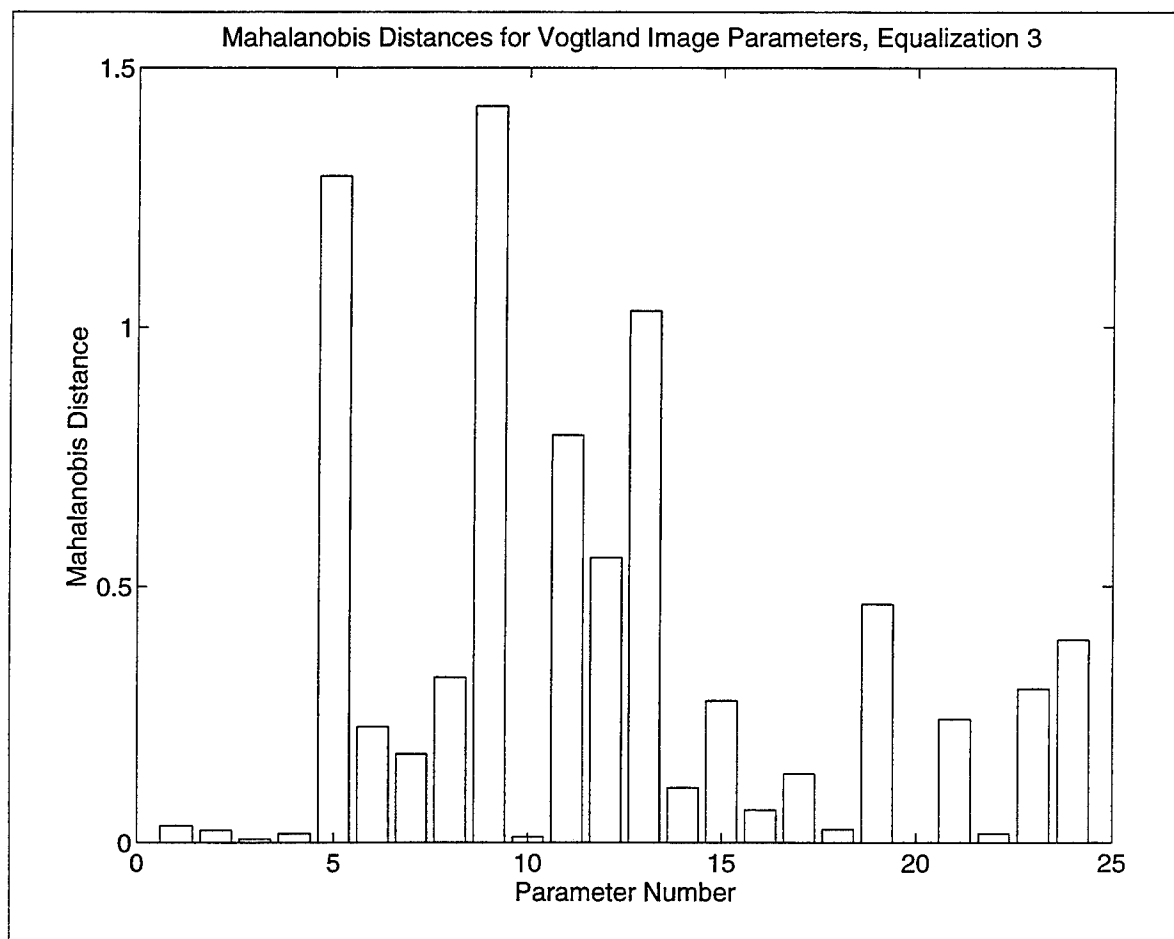


Figure 20. Mahalanobis distances for image parameters for Vogtland database, equalization 3.

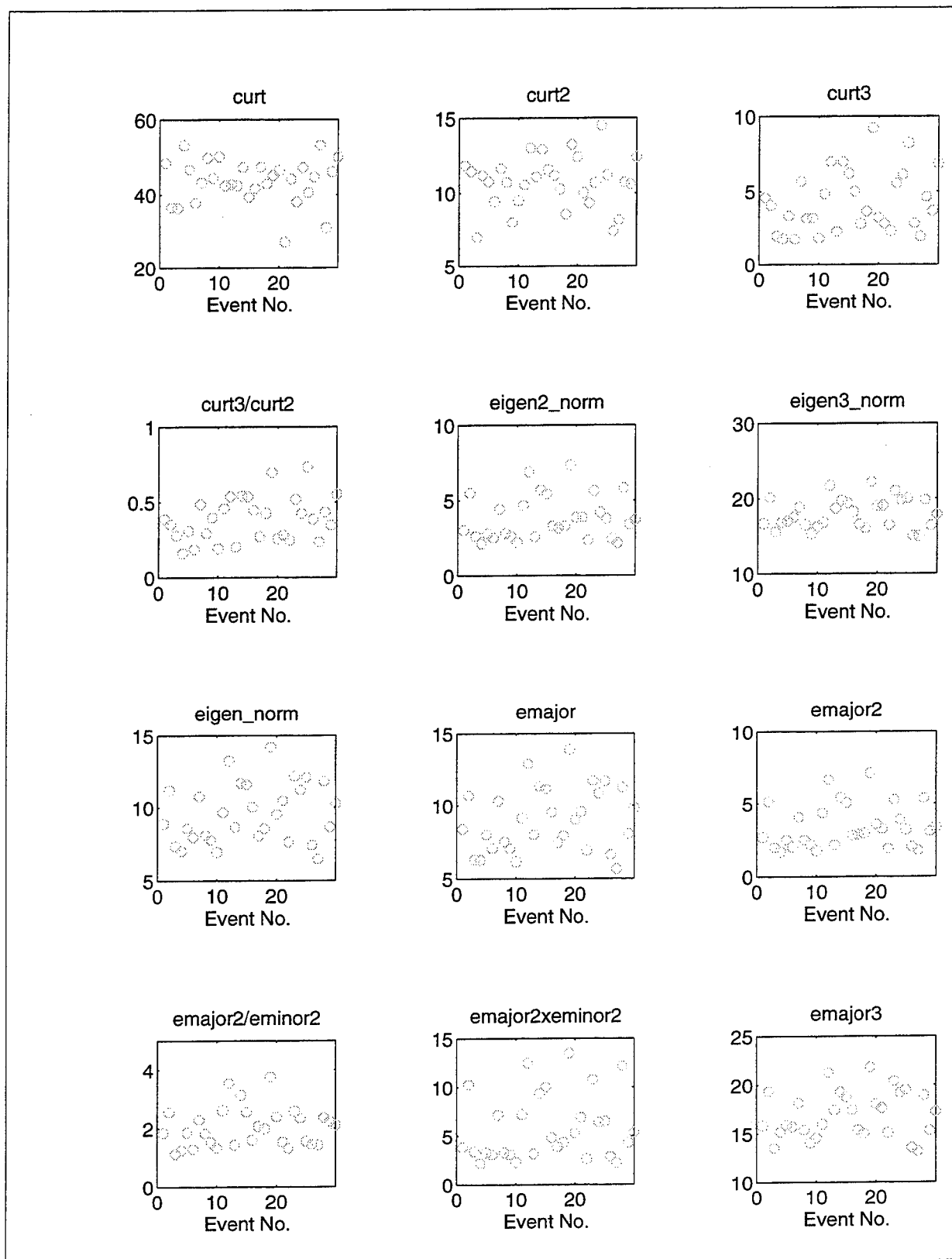


Figure 21. Values of image parameters 1-12 for the Lubin dataset, equalization number 1.

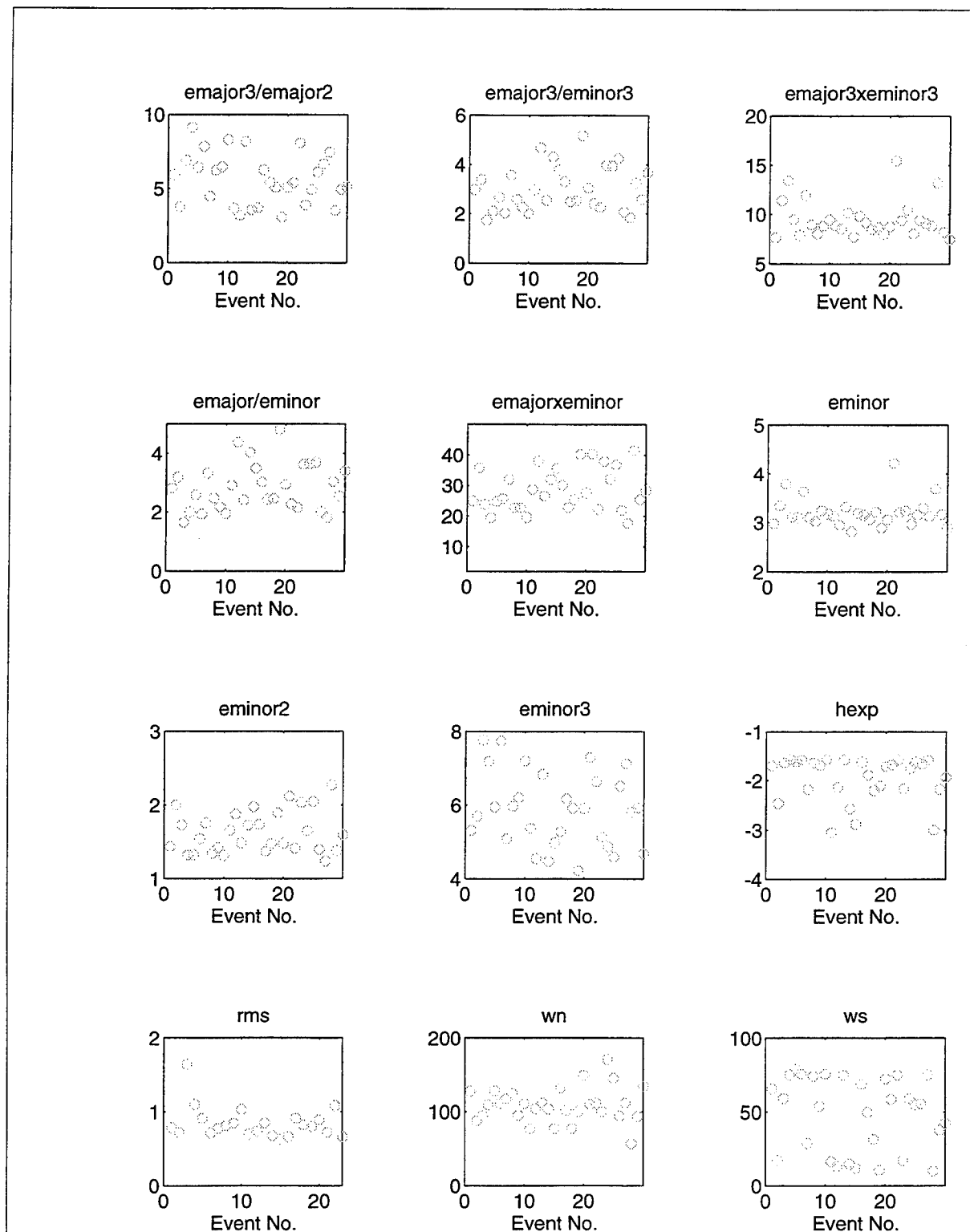


Figure 22. Values of image parameters 12-24 for the Lubin dataset, equalization number 1.

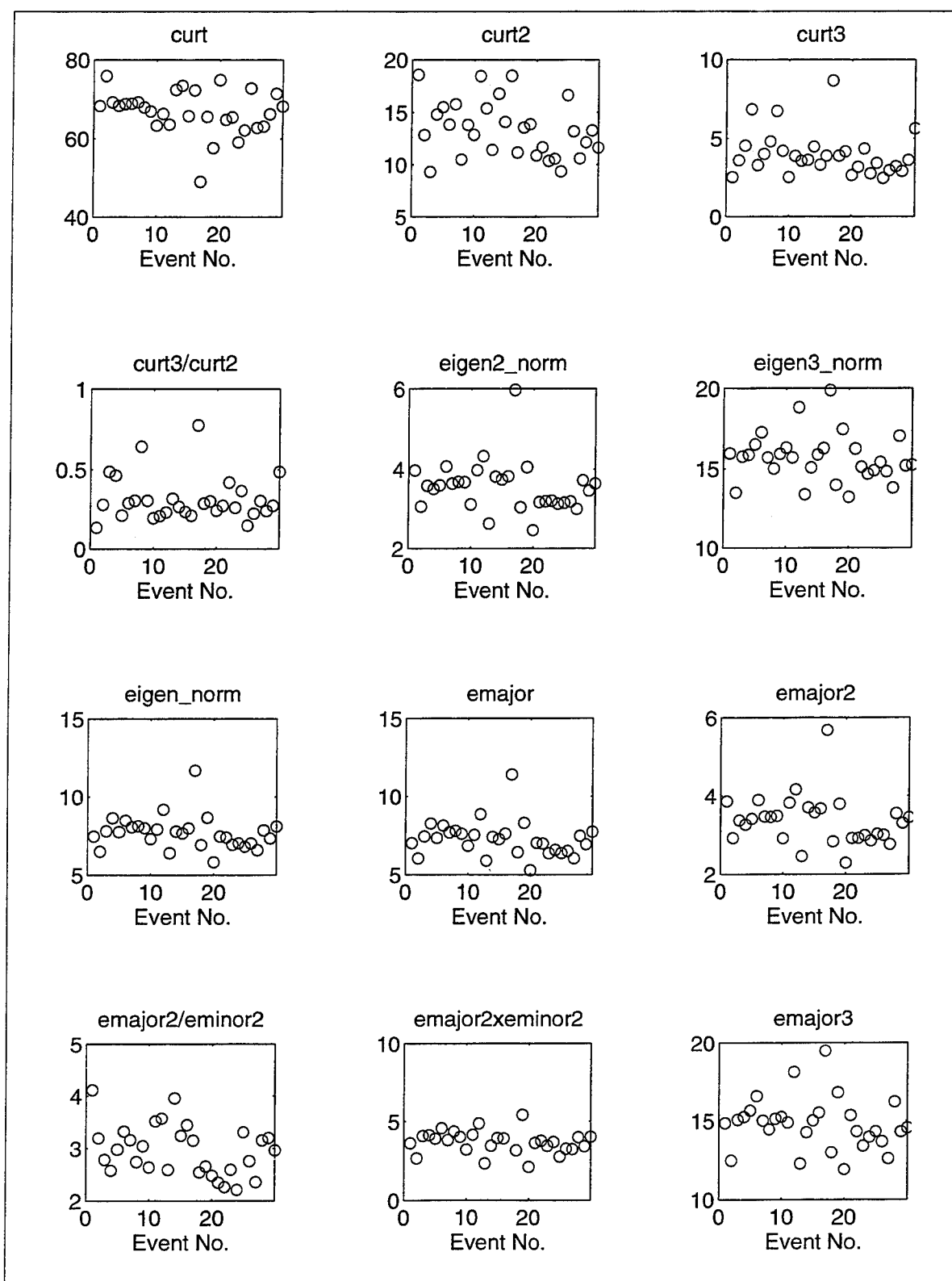


Figure 23. Values of image parameters 1-12 for the Lubin dataset, equalization number 2.

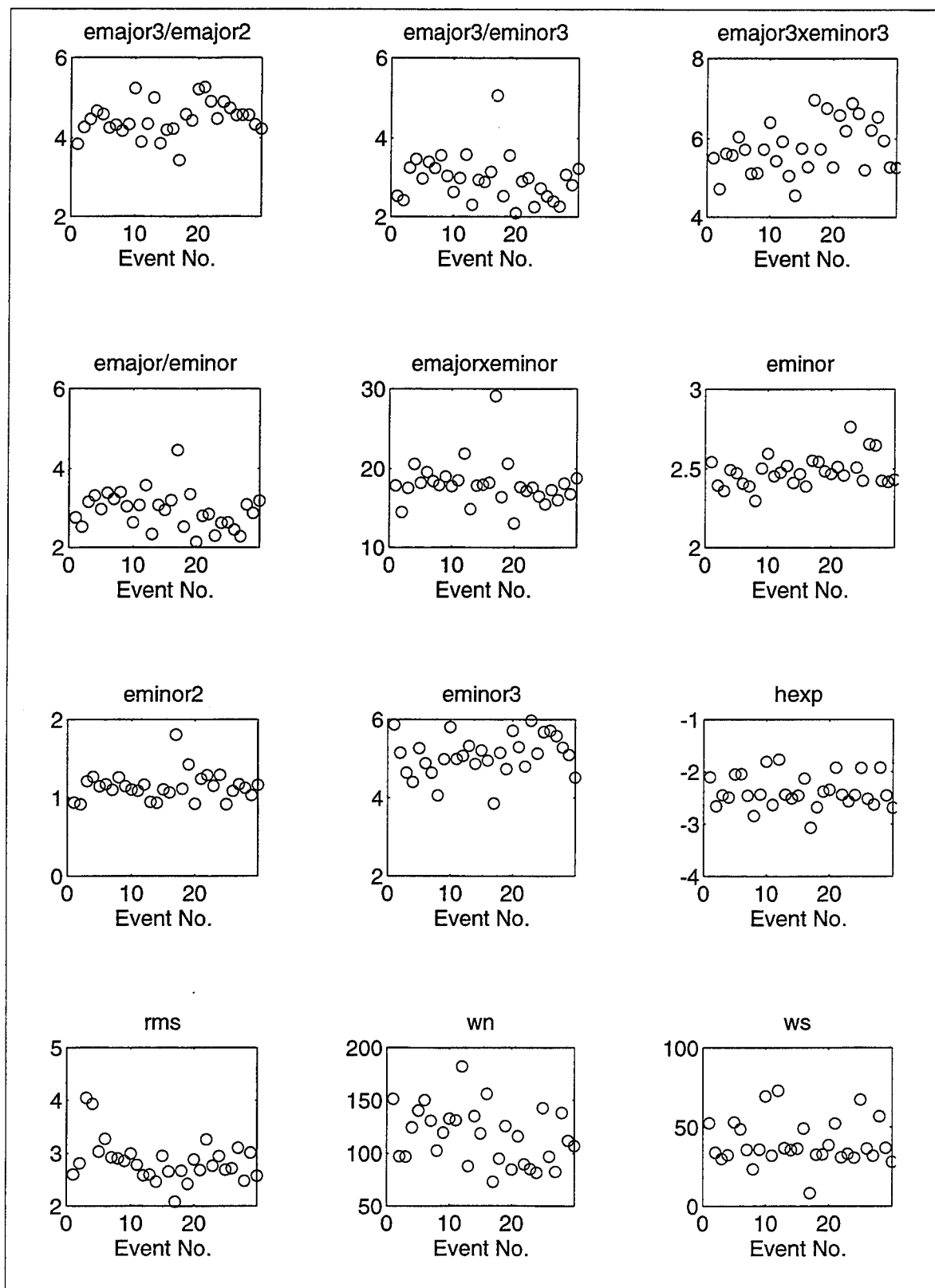


Figure 24. Values of image parameters 12-24 for the Lubin dataset, equalization number 2.

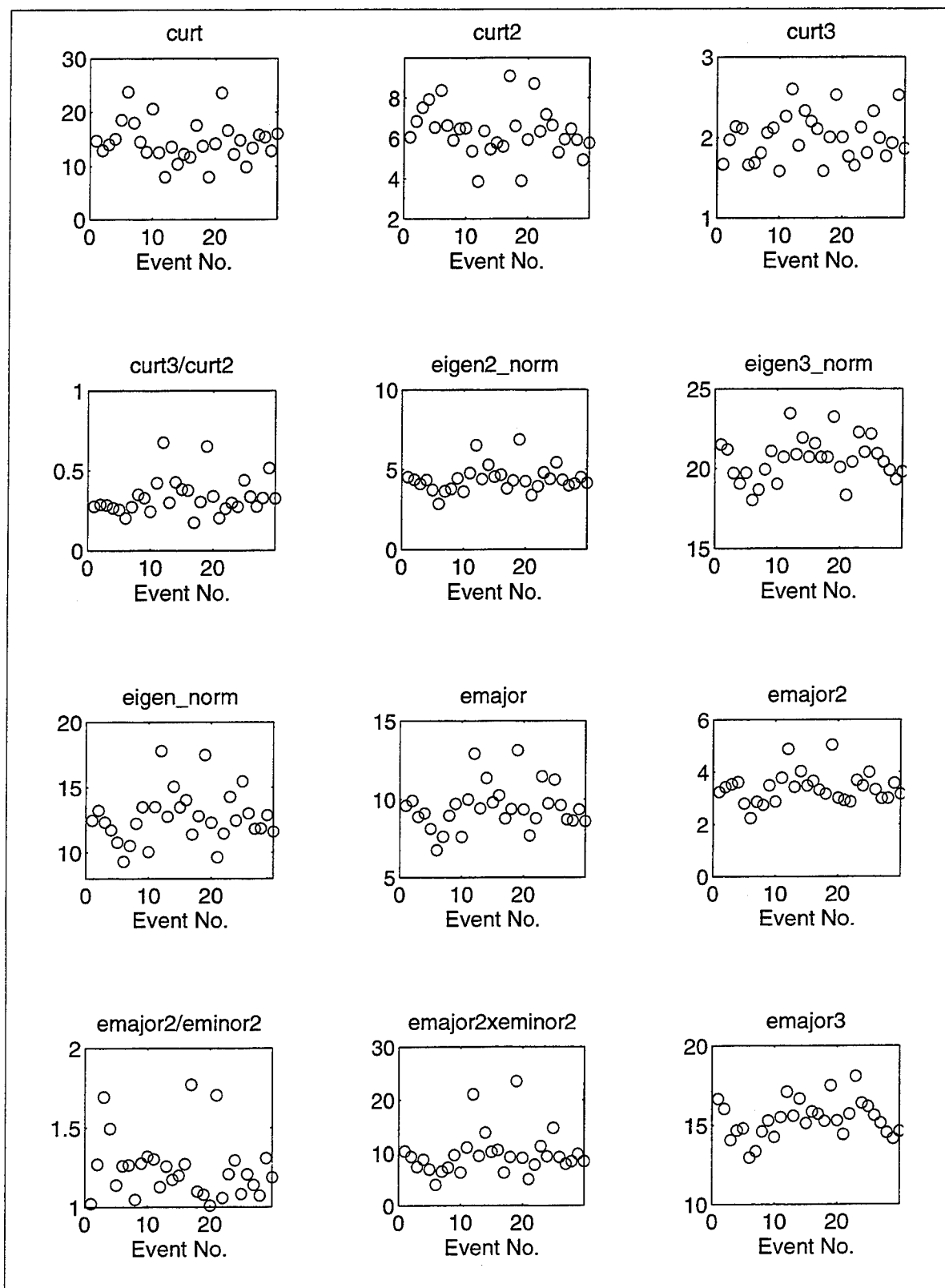


Figure 25. Values of image parameters 1-12 for the Lubin dataset, equalization number 3.

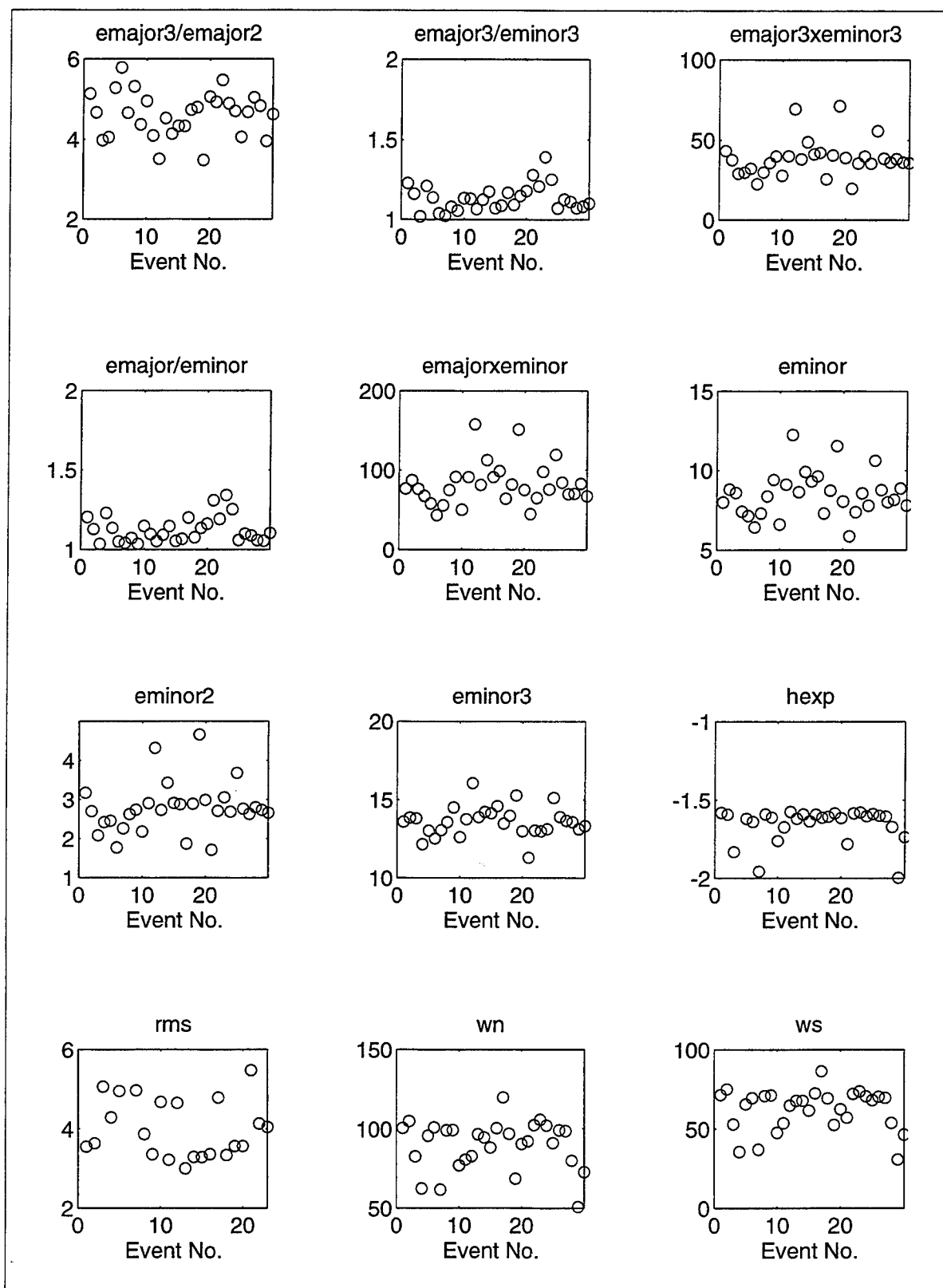


Figure 26. Values of image parameters 12-24 for the Lubin dataset, equalization number 3.

4. Summary and Conclusions

The goal of this research was to determine if parameters extracted from the time-frequency (TF) representations of regional seismograms could be used to identify seismic source types. To accomplish this, we extracted 24 image parameters from the wavenumber spectra of previously identified seismic events from the NORESS, Vogtland, and Lubin ground-truth databases. A total of 135 events were analyzed.

A number of the image parameters were found to provide excellent source identification capability. For example, the eigenvalues of the images and the image kurtosis were found to be useful for the NORESS and Vogtland datasets. The Lubin events, which are all "mining-induced earthquakes", fall within either the earthquake or explosion classes, which corroborates the results of our 1-dimensional study (Pulli and Dysart, 1994). In general, we find that the image parameters extracted from the wavenumber spectral images provide additional useful information for source identification.

If there is a problem with the methodology, it lies in the physical interpretation of the image parameters. Some parameters, such as the characteristic wavelengths, reflect spectral banding in the TF distributions. However, some useful parameters, such as the image eigenvalues, are not readily related to the source physics. To overcome this difficulty, a model study should be undertaken so that image parameters can be extracted from TF plots of model events with known spectral characteristics.

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